





## EUROPEAN NEWS

## Comecon debts to Austria increase

By Paul Lendvai

VIENNA, Oct. 2. EAST EUROPEAN indebtedness to Austria banks jumped by 40 per cent last year, raising the accumulated debts of Comecon countries to Sch 40bn (about £14.3bn), which is 46 per cent of the outstanding loans extended by Austrian banks.

These figures were released by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Comparisons. A detailed breakdown of current Comecon debt to Austria shows that long-term loans from Austrian commercial banks account for Sch 30bn, short-term bank credits for Sch 5bn and direct credits from suppliers for almost Sch 5bn.

Poland is by far the largest debtor among the Comecon countries. Its debts of Sch 11.9bn account for 40 per cent of Austrian bank credits to Eastern Europe. East Germany takes second place with Sch 7.3bn, while the Soviet Union and Hungary each owe Sch 3.1bn to Austrian banks. These four countries account for 85 per cent of the long-term Comecon debt to Austria. Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria each report liabilities of only Sch 1.9bn to commercial banks and Romania Sch 600m.

## New electoral legislation for Portugal

By Jimmy Burns

LISBON, Oct. 2. THE Assembly of the Republic, Portugal's Parliament, today approved a new electoral law which effectively completes the legal framework needed to hold new elections. The law essentially updates existing legislation introduced before the 1976 General Election held in 1976 and paves the way for the registration in the electoral roll of over 1m new voters—over 18-years-old and settlers from the former African colonies—who were not eligible to vote in the last election.

Elections continue to be the most likely outcome out of the present political impasse, brought on by the parliamentary rejection of Portugal's third constitutional Government over two weeks ago.

Weekend statements suggest that the country's major political parties are no longer finding the common ground for a majority governing accord.

Meanwhile in a weekend interview, S. Alfredo da Costa, the caretaker Prime Minister, said that he and his government expected to remain in office for at least another one to two months. Despite the rejection of his programme, Sr. da Costa is still hoping to gain Parliamentary backing for a series of pending major policy decisions.

## UK warned in fish row

BRUSSELS, Oct. 2. THE COMMON Market Commission today published a letter from Mr. Finn Olav Gundelach, EEC Fisheries Commissioner, urging Britain to delay its unilateral action on fish conservation measures, and warning that Brussels reserves the right to take "whatever action is appropriate in due course".

The letter, addressed to the British Mission to the EEC here, said the Commission could not endorse six conservation measures for which London had sought its approval.

Heuter

## Provincial Minister's move upsets German N-project

BY JONATHAN CARR

WEST GERMANY'S nuclear energy development plans have been thrown into confusion by the unexpected decision of a provincial minister to refuse approval of further work on a prototype fast breeder reactor.

The action by Herr Horst Ludwig Riemer, the Economics Minister of the state of North-Rhine-Westphalia, not only appears to have been taken against the wishes of many in the local state cabinet but also across the position of the Bonn Government.

Affected by Herr Riemer's decision is the fast breeder reactor project at Kalkar, near the Rhine and the Dutch border, on which work began in 1973 and on which well over DM 1bn has already been invested. Also involved in the project are the Belgians and the Dutch.

It was expected that the reactor would begin operation in the 1980s, generating more

than 10,000 megawatts of electricity and thus paving the way for a far more efficient use of nuclear fuel supplies in West Germany.

This path to a "plutonium economy" is one strongly opposed by the present U.S. Administration, but West Germany, which has few native energy supplies and is wholly dependent on imports for its nuclear fuel, feels bound to go ahead with it.

However, Herr Riemer now warns of the nuclear proliferation problems associated with a plutonium economy. He suggests that the current relatively weak growth in the use of domestic electric power does not justify the additional risks he feels are involved in fast breeders. He therefore proposes that the Kalkar installation be turned instead into a centre for disposal of plutonium from other existing reactors.

Experts appear astonished by this proposal. Even assuming that it proved practicable, it is

pointed out that alteration of the Kalkar programme would ensure further delay and extensive additional costs.

Nonetheless, the matter is being treated seriously in Bonn. The federal German system ensures wide powers for provincial governments and their Ministers. Herr Riemer's support is needed if the Kalkar project is to go ahead on schedule and he is likely to come under heavy pressure to reconsider his position.

AP-DJ reports from Bonn: Herr Martin Gruener, West German State Secretary in the Economics Ministry, said that Eastern European countries are either planning or in the process of building 49 nuclear plants with a generating capacity of 38,825 megawatts.

Herr Gruener, answering a parliamentary question, said the East Bloc countries already have 33 nuclear plants in operation with a generating capacity of 10,659 megawatts.

## By-election setback for Giscard in Paris

By Robert Mauthner

PARIS, Oct. 2. THE FRENCH coalition Government, whose economic policy is becoming increasingly unpopular, suffered another setback yesterday in a by-election in the 14th district of Paris, where the Gaullist candidate was decisively beaten by a Socialist.

This was the fifth successive Government defeat in a by-election since its handsome victory in the general election last March, and its falling fortunes have seriously undermined the already shaky alliance of Giscardian Centrists and M. Jacques Chirac's Gaullist Party.

In yesterday's final ballot in Paris, the Socialist candidate, Mme. Edwige Avice, who had come second to her Gaullist opponent, M. Christian de La Malene, in the first round, polled nearly 54 per cent of the total votes cast, against the latter's 46 per cent. A striking feature of the poll, as of the four previous by-elections, was that the Socialist-Communist alliance held firm in practice.

Not only did the Communist candidate, who came third in the first round, stand down in favour of Mme. Avice in the run-off, but Communist voters faithfully transferred their support to the Socialist candidate, after the withdrawal of their own representative. This is eloquently confirmed by the figures. The combined votes cast for the Socialist and Communist candidates in the first round almost exactly equaled Mme. Avice's 46 per cent in the second ballot.

M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, whose austerity policies are at the root of public disenchantment with the Government, has stoically played down the significance of the by-election defeat.

"There are only two elections in France which count: the Presidential and the General elections," he said in a radio interview over the week-end. With no decisive poll in the offing before the Presidential election in 1981, M. Barre clearly considers that the Government is in a strong position. But it could still fail as the result of internal dissensions, and the Gaullists, who are the biggest if not the most influential coalition partner, are clearly making some very threatening noises.

Meanwhile, the Socialists today tabled a censure motion as the National Assembly convened. There is no chance of the vote going against the Government when the issue is debated later this week.

## French trains hit by strike

By David White

PARIS, Oct. 2. A THREE-DAY strike on the French railways has reduced train services by more than half on most lines.

The latest transport snarl-up, which began yesterday in response to a strike call by four railwaymen's unions in pursuit of better working conditions, came as French air traffic controllers were once more working to rule.

Main line services from Gare du Nord, including Channel-bound traffic, got off relatively lightly, with about 80 per cent of trains running as scheduled yesterday. Main line traffic from other Paris stations was about 30 per cent of normal. Only 15-40 per cent of suburban services have been running.

The strikers are protesting against the working conditions for drivers and guards imposed by the introduction of a new winter timetable.

## RUHRGAS DEAL

## Cartel Office ruling cites competition restriction

BY LESLIE COLTIT

THE WEST GERMAN Cartel Office said today that it is blocking the purchase by Deutsche BP of a 25 per cent share in Ruhrgas, West Germany's largest natural gas company, because it would restrict competition in the domestic gas market.

The transaction was part of a DM800m deal announced in June between BP and Veba AG, the giant West German energy group, which was to take effect on January 1.

The Cartel Office in West Berlin says that transferring access to domestic and foreign Ruhrgas shares from Veba to BP would "increase Ruhrgas's domestic market."

"Some 66 per cent of the gas which reaches the consumer is supplied by Ruhrgas," it says. Because of Ruhrgas's market influence, the Cartel Office attaches great importance to what it calls "competition by substitution" between various sources of energy, especially between gas and oil.

This means ensuring competition between different types of energy and preventing takeovers from linking them.

Shell, Esso, Texaco and Mobil oil already have shares in Ruhr-

gas, the Cartel Office notes, arguing that if BP were to join these international oil companies "whose interests are linked," then it would further restrict competition.

The companies, it claims, could then include Ruhrgas in their joint co-ordination of oil and gas sales to the German market.

"It is of decisive importance that another effective potential competitor is not eliminated by integration," the Cartel Office says.

Ironically, the Cartel Office is an agency of the West German Economics Ministry and this is not the first time they have reached different conclusions. In 1974 the office investigated international oil companies operating in West Germany, including Veba, for allegedly overcharging their German subsidiaries.

The Cartel Office subsequently got bogged down in oil company book-keeping procedures and had to drop its inquiry. That same year, Volkswagen, in which the West German Government is a large minority shareholder, was accused by the Cartel Office of unjustified price rises. Here, too, the office was unable to prove its case.

BERLIN, Oct. 2.

According to the Cartel Office, Berlin already has excellent Ruhrgas shares from Veba to BP sources of supply, as well as to would "increase Ruhrgas's domestic market."

Only the Federal Minister of Economics, Count Otto Lamb-dorff, the office notes, can now grant permission for the takeover. The West German Government controls 44 per cent of Veba and Economics Ministry officials have spoken favourably of the BP-Veba deal.

The two companies now hope Bonn will ultimately approve the deal.

## Prohibition may be lifted

BY A. H. HERMANN, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN THE acquisition of Cartel Office, are complete. Though the Minister of Economic Affairs may give the office only instructions of a general nature (and these must be published in the official gazette), the contact between Bonn and Berlin is in fact much closer. This is particularly so since Herr Wolfgang

This difference in attitude by the Minister of Economic Affairs and the Cartel Office in Berlin is a pointer to the likely outcome of the affair.

It is possible that though now prohibited by the Cartel Office, the acquisition will ultimately be approved by a "Ministerial exemption" granted by the Government. This somewhat cumbersome way of arriving at the desired result, first by prohibiting the deal and then by lifting the prohibition, is a feature of German merger rules.

Unlike UK law, the German Competition Act separates the consideration of anti-competitive aspects of mergers from the question of whether a merger is or is not in the public interest.

The Federal Cartel Office has the task of prohibiting mergers likely to create or increase market dominance. It has no brief for taking the general economic interests of Germany into account. These questions can be considered only by the Minister of Economic Affairs.

If he decides that a merger would benefit the national economy, or that there is an overriding public interest, he may lift the Cartel Office prohibition.

The only limit imposed on his freedom seems to be the requirement that no decision should endanger the continuance of a free market economy in Germany. The BP/Veba deal is not likely to do that.

It would be naive to believe that this separation of powers, and the independence of the

Court underlined in its GKN decision that merger control should be mainly concerned with structural changes likely to take place in the future to restriction of competition.

After this judgment the Cartel Office could not ignore the possible consequences of about 1,000 additional BP petrol stations in Germany and of its link with Ruhrgas, precluding the possibility that the two would in future compete in the German gas market.

Though the Cartel Office reaches its decision by a quasi-judicial procedure, it is also political. Its main concern now is to avoid anything which could jeopardise the passage of the fourth revision of the German Competition Act.

The Bill, now before the German parliament, provides for such statutory assumptions of market dominance which BP could not escape, simply on the basis of its turnover. A decision taken now in favour of the deal would have contradicted the Cartel Office claim that such change in the law was unnecessary.

No great secret was made of the fact that the Ministry encouraged the Federal Cartel Office to fight for its—at time legally doubtful—prohibition of the GKN/Sachs merger. But though the Ministry may encourage the Cartel Office to obtain judicial clearance for a novel interpretation of the law, it could not and would never ask it to neglect its statutory duties.

The Supreme Court decision in the GKN/Sachs case made it much more difficult for the Cartel Office not to ban the BP acquisition of Ruhrgas. Herr Kartte admitted publicly that even from the point of view of competition the deal would have advantages particularly in reducing the market dominance of the Veba. However, the Supreme

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## Metal workers' union rebuffed

BY ADRIAN DICKS

INDUSTRIE Gewerkschaft Metall, described the union's setback as a "political defeat," but attempted to salvage something from the situation by commenting that it would be no bad thing for two groups to be competing in the interests of the Daimler-Benz work force against a management he has described as "the craftiest in the land."

The clear victors were a group of "rebels" to the left of the union establishment, who have built up their support steadily over the past six years since they first stood in opposition to the union. They won no fewer than 12 of the seats in the blue-collar section of the works council.

Out of a total of 47 seats on the council, candidates on the IG-Metall list managed to secure a bare majority of 24, winning 15 out of 29 seats in the blue-collar section and nine out of 17 in that elected by the staff employees. Some 95 per cent of the 12,000-plus work force at Untertürkheim are IG-Metall members.

Herr Franz Steinkuehler, the Stuttgart regional leader of IG-

IG-Metall list won 19 seats in the blue-collar section. Shortly afterwards, however, the rebel list led by Herr Willi Hoss, an ex-union member, uncovered the fact that some 1,300 ballot slips favouring the IG-Metall candidates had plainly been falsified.

Although the background to this incident has not yet been fully explained, the rebels were able to have the election result set aside by a court and have new elections ordered from which they have emerged clearly strengthened.

Herr Hoss is apparently anxious to dispel the notion that relations at the plant, and has tried to contest his expulsion from IG-Metall. His supporters, who gained 39 per cent of the vote compared with the official IG-Metall 52 per cent, have done well from canvassing among night shift workers and among the foreign "guest workers" who also seem to have felt their interests and grievances were neglected by the outgoing works council.

## Spain begins EEC campaign

BY ROBERT GRAHAM

THE GOVERNMENT today began a three month campaign to inform Spaniards about the Common Market. Since Spain applied to join the Community in July 1977 this is the first official attempt to explain the reasons for the application, the nature of the problems and benefits of membership, and the complex workings of the EEC's institutions.

The campaign is being organised by the Ministry for Relations with the EEC, formed on February 10 this year and headed by a former Commerce Minister, Sr. Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo. At the outset Sr. Calvo-Sotelo said he viewed his ministry as having a dual role: both to negotiate with Brussels and to prepare Spaniards for entry.

Over the next three months officials from the ministry plan to visit 94 towns and cities throughout Spain, effectively covering every major urban centre in the country. The emphasis is on holding a series of separate meetings with specific interest groups, rather than talking to large gatherings. Usually the officials will first brief local media about the negotiating process with Brussels and the workings of the community.

Then they will meet with the local chambers of commerce or agricultural chambers, and this will be followed by briefings of the local representatives of the political parties and any other specialised interest groups.

Sr. Calvo-Sotelo says he prefers this approach rather than impersonal propaganda from Madrid. He also hopes in this way to be able to obtain a better feel for the kind of problems specific interest groups of regions might face as a result of entry.

So far Spain has witnessed no

real debate, even informal, on the pros and cons of joining the EEC.

David Gardner reports from Barcelona: Sr. Landelino Lavilla, Minister of Justice, and Sr. Josep Tarradellas, president of Catalonia's Generalitat, today presided at the formal handover of the first powers to be devolved to the regional government.

The Generalitat will now have under its jurisdiction a limited range of matters affecting agriculture, urban planning, industry and commerce.

## Gibraltar 'anachronism' attacked

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 2.

THE Minister said in an address to the General Assembly. Sr. Oreja Aguirre said that as a colony, Gibraltar was a violation of Spain's territorial integrity. As an anachronism, it was an obstacle to co-operation between peoples who, in the natural way of things, were "called to attain mutual understanding."

Sr. Oreja Aguirre said the UN had repeatedly emphasised the need for a negotiated settlement.

Reuter

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# Italian security strikes at the Red Brigades

BY PAUL BETTS

ROME, Oct. 2.

ITALIAN SECURITY forces have apparently made a major breakthrough in their investigations into the extreme left wing Red Brigades. Although police were silent today on a 48 hour anti-terrorist dragnet in Milan there are so far unconfirmed reports that the police operation, headed by the new chief of the anti-terrorist squad, General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, has also taken part in the arrest of two Red Brigades leaders.

These are Nadia Mantovani, the girl friend of Renato Curcio, the so-called ideological leader of the movement; and Mario Moretti, the alleged head of the Rome cell of the Red Brigades, which is suspected of organising the kidnapping of Sig. Aldo Moro, the late president of the Christian Democrats.

The anti-terrorist squad seized the Red Brigades member Antonio Savino, in Milan over the weekend. Savino, on the run from prison, and two police officers were wounded in the gun-fight which led to the arrest.

About ten days ago, police also arrested in Milan Corrado Alunni, suspected of being a leading member of the organisation and also to have taken part in the Moro kidnapping.

These developments came at the same time as a renewal of political violence in Italy with a series of major terrorist and politically motivated incidents in Milan, Rome, Turin and Naples.

In Rome, the funeral of a 24-year-old unemployed left-wing student shot dead by a group of Italian, including the depressed extreme right-wing youths took south.

## Last days of the Lockheed trial

BY PAUL BETTS IN ROME

THE LONG-drawn-out and controversial Lockheed affair in Italy is now on its last legs. The unprecedented trial (before the constitutional court) of two former Defence Ministers, a former Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, two leading lawyers and six other defendants is to resume this morning and a verdict and sentence is expected before the end of the month.

After some 80 hearings lasting nearly five months, the prosecution has now asked for heavy prison sentences for the two former Ministers—the Social Democrat Sig. Mario Tanassi and the Christian Democrat Sig. Luigi Gui—and the confiscation of all their personal wealth. The charges are of grave corruption against the state arising out of reported payments of some \$1.6m by Lockheed in bribes to secure the sale in 1970 to the Italian Air Force of 14 C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft.

For Sig. Tanassi, the three members of the prosecution have unanimously requested a nine year term of jail, as indeed they have for the two Lefebvre brothers, Ovidio and Antonio, the lawyers accused of having handed over the bribes. For Sig. Gui, who is alleged to have received a Lockheed payment not so much for himself but for his ruling Christian Democrat Party, the prosecution has demanded six years imprisonment, although one of the three prosecutors dissented from the decision on the grounds there was no evidence, but only suspicions, against the former Minister.

Both Ministers, the first former cabinet members to be tried before the country's highest court since the fall of fascism, have repeatedly denied any improper action in connection with the Lockheed deal.

In all, the prosecution has asked for a total of some 58 years imprisonment for nine of the 11 defendants, who include the missing former chairman of the Finmeccanica state engineering holding company, Sig. Camillo Crociani, and the former Air Force Chief of Staff, General Duilio Fanali. In the light of these stiff demands by the prosecution, the defence winding-up to begin today will be all the more crucial, especially since there is no right of appeal for defendants appearing before the constitutional court.

The next few weeks, therefore, could be considered the climax of a trial which in many respects is unique in Italy. Yet this does not appear to be the case.

The next few weeks could be considered the climax of a trial which in many respects is unique in Italy. Yet this does not appear to be the case. The over-riding feeling here is one of anti-climax.

last year preceeding the vote to impeach Sig. Tanassi and Sig. Gui, Sig. Moro said that the debate had turned into a trial of his party's hold of political power in Italy.

The debate itself followed extensive investigations by a Parliamentary Commission set up to decide whether the evidence against the former Ministers was sufficient to propose the waiving of their Parliamentary immunity so that they could stand trial. The all-party commission dismissed a former Prime Minister, Sig. Mariano Rumor, who had held office at the time of the Lockheed negotiations, on the basis of the casting vote of its Christian Democrat chairman. In a joint session of both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament voted to impeach the two former Ministers.

The attack against the Christian Democrats came at a particularly vulnerable time for the ruling party. Its political influence had steadily been undermined by the rising electoral gains of the Communist Party. After the inconclusive general elections of June 1978,

the party had come to an agreement with the Communists, who tacitly supported a new minority Christian Democrat government through abstention in Parliament. Subsequently, the Communists gained direct participation in the governing process by being included in the parliamentary majority. This, however, is still some way from the party's efforts to be a direct partner in government.

In the process, the Lockheed affair has already had far-reaching repercussions in Italy. Last June, Sig. Giovanni Leone, the President of the Republic, resigned following a series of so far unsubstantiated allegations about the association of the President and members of his family in a range of corrupt practices, including fiscal irregularities. One of the main attacks against Sig. Leone was his ties with the Lefebvre brothers, and the small Radical Party had earlier demanded that Sig. Leone be brought to trial along with Sig. Gui and Sig. Tanassi. Parliament, however, ignored this demand.

The Christian Democrats, for their part, have attempted to clean up their image, and their governing alliance with the main opposition parties appears to have helped. The party has further gained considerable popular support in the wake of the emotional reaction to the kidnapping and murder of Sig. Moro. This has not been the case for the Communists who, under pressure from their own supporters and under attack from the Socialists, now appear to be losing ground.

Although tensions clearly exist within the ruling party following the loss of its one undisputed and unchallenged leader, the Christian Democrats are now showing concrete signs of closing their ranks. The appointment of Sig. Giovanni Galloni, close to the reformist Secretary General of the party, Sig. Benigno Zaccagnini, as the new party chief whip, and the selection of Sig. Carlo Donat Cattin, the Industry Minister, who enjoys a degree of support from the base, as the party's Deputy Secretary, is tangible evidence of this.

The traditionally faction-torn party which is to hold its national congress next spring concurrently with the Communist national congress, clearly feels it could fare well in a prospective early general election later in the spring. To this end, it wants to demonstrate its surface at least, a united and vigorous front.

## UK urges lower air fares to Scandinavia

By Hilary James

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 2.

THE UK is pressing for lower fares and increased competition in its negotiations with the Scandinavian countries on new air service agreements. Mr. George Rogers, leader of the UK delegation, said here today.

"Agreement is possible, but it quite clearly will be a different agreement from the one the Scandinavians set out to get," he stated after a week of negotiations.

The existing air service agreements were abrogated by the Scandinavians, with effect from December 31 this year.

The Governments acted at the urging of Scandinavian Airlines Systems. SAS feared that planned new routes for British independent operators would undermine its position in the market for scheduled traffic.

The Scandinavians entered the negotiations hoping for an agreement which would carve up scheduled traffic 50-50 between SAS and British Airlines and would lay down restrictive rules for opening new routes from the UK to Scandinavia.

The UK is looking for an agreement which will permit increased competition to SAS and British Airways, which between them account for 80 per cent. of the value of the market.

The British believe this competition will come both from independent operators and the charter companies.

Negotiations have been marked by tough attitudes on both sides. "The Scandinavians tried to smash our independence," Mr. Rogers added. "We had to point out to them that we had the power to break up SAS."

SAS is owned and operated jointly by Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The UK could break up SAS by withdrawing its right to operate from the three countries jointly.

Britain has also given notice to end so-called "fifth freedom" rights for Scandinavian charter companies. Withdrawal of these would prevent the SAS-owned Scaniair charter company, jointly owned by the three countries, from flying between Scandinavia and the UK at all.

The UK did not intend to break up SAS and was not closing the door on the possibility of an agreement to extend "fifth freedom" rights to the charter companies in future, Mr. Rogers went on.

But the UK felt it had to give notice to end the charter companies' fifth freedom rights in order to bring the charter issue into the negotiations. Talks will be resumed in London on November 13, when 10 days have been allotted for them.

## Bank of India Jersey branch

THE BANK of India has started operations in the Channel Islands with the opening of a branch in New Street, St. Helier, Jersey.

There are now 35 merchant and foreign banks licensed to operate in Jersey, apart from branches of the UK clearing banks. The latest foreign bank to be licensed, Banco de Bilbao, has not started trading.

# Death toll in Iran strike believed to be at least 12

BY ANDREW WHITLEY

TEHRAN, Oct. 2.

AT LEAST 12 people are now thought to have been killed in clashes with security forces in towns and cities across western Iran during yesterday's one-day protest strike.

In Kermanshah, capital of Kurdistan province, the Persian language newspaper, Ettelaat, reports today that three people died and 31 were injured during a running battle with the police that lasted much of the evening. Banks and cinemas were set alight.

Further north, in the small town of Bukan, a spokesman for the Committee for the Defence of Liberty and Human Rights said that seven young people were killed and many others injured when police and soldiers opened fire on demonstrating schoolchildren. No immediate confirmation of the incident was available from the Government. South-east of Kermanshah, this afternoon's Kayhan newspaper

reports that two people died in Dorud. In what looks to have been a wave of disturbances throughout western Iran, several other major towns, including Zanjan, Rezaiyeh and Dezful, are reported to have been the scene of large-scale marches.

Together with yesterday's assassination in Mashhad of a police colonel and his driver, the unofficial death toll from the strike is put at 14. The strike was called in protest against the alleged house arrest of the exiled opposition leader, Mr. Ayatollah Khomeini, in Iraq.

Commenting on yesterday's announcement of an amnesty for all exiles prepared to work within the existing constitutional framework, a Government Minister, Mr. Manouchehr Azamou, has said that Mr. Khomeini—the Shah's leading opponent—can return home on these conditions.

## Smith bans main black newspaper

BY TONY HAWKINS

SALISBURY, Oct. 2.

RHODESIA'S Government has banned the country's largest black-oriented newspaper, the Zimbabwe Times, which is owned by the Lonrho company and is reputed to support Mr. Joshua Nkomo, co-leader of the Patriotic Front.

Mr. Hilary Squires, Joint Minister of Law and Order, said that the paper had been banned because it supported terrorist organisations. The step was in line with Mr. Ian Smith's broadcast last month in which he promised action against domestic supporters of the Patriotic Front guerrillas.

A Government spokesman said the newspaper had been banned because its continued publication was considered to be contrary to public safety and security.

The Zimbabwe Times was set up by the Lonrho group about 18 months ago. The editor, Mr. Herbert Mugangire, is on bail facing charges under Rhodesia's security legislation for allegedly publishing false information without permission.

The newspaper said today that about 300 people would be out of work as a result of the ban. Most of newspaper's staff is black and only eight whites are employed.

The ban has been condemned by the Rhodesian Guild of Journalists which said it would be impossible to hold free elections without a free press.

Several black newspapers are published in Rhodesia, but the Zimbabwe Times had the largest circulation and was probably the most influential.

Meanwhile combined operations headquarters reported that the high-level road bridge across the Tokwe River on the main Salisbury to Johannesburg route was blown up by guerrillas early today.

## Kaunda ruling challenged

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

LUSAKA, Oct. 2.

ZAMBIA'S RULING United National Independence Party (UNIP) was accused today of preventing would-be presidential candidates from challenging President Kenneth Kaunda and of using intimidation and death threats to do so.

The charges were made in the High Court by two of Dr. Kaunda's most prominent opponents, Mr. Simon Kapwepwe, a former Vice-President, and Mr. Harry Nkumbula, who led an opposition party until Zambia became a one-party state.

The two men lodged petitions alleging that constitutional amendments under which Dr. Kaunda was nominated sole for a week.

presidential candidate for elections next December were unlawful.

Both men said the amendments, which placed new restrictions on would-be presidential candidates, had not been correctly circulated at, or approved by UNIP's general conference for publishing war information without permission.

The newspaper said today that about 300 people would be out of work as a result of the ban. Most of newspaper's staff is black and only eight whites are employed.

## Kenya denies Zambian report

By John Worrall

NAIROBI, Oct. 2.

KENYA AIRWAYS today denied that it planned to open a service to South Africa. An official said the Kenya Airways chairman, Mr. Eliud Mathu, had been mis-reported in Lusaka by Zambian Government radio, and had merely spoken of the airline's capability of flying to countries south of Zambia, such as Lesotho and Botswana.

The permanent secretary in the Ministry of Power and Communications, Mr. D. W. Mwiraria, said flights to white-ruled states would start only "after these states are sovereign and free."

It is thought here that China's attempt to befriend India is due to two reasons. First, Peking is able to draw India away from the Russian sphere of influence and feels that the present Indian Government, unlike former Congress Governments, is sincere about its declared policy of genuine non-alignment. Second, China finds itself increasingly isolated in Asia because of border troubles with Russia and Vietnam and does not want to risk reopening another live front with India.

Sino-Indian relations have been bitter for a long time but have shown gradual improvement in the past 18 months or so. Ambassadors have been exchanged for the first time in two decades, trade has been resumed in a small way and many cultural and other delegations have been exchanged recently. The pace of the improvement is expected to quicken after Mr. Vajpayee's visit.

The Indian Government has made it clear, however, that improvement of relations with China cannot be at the cost of relations with any other country. To drive this point home, Mr. Vajpayee paid a short visit to Moscow a fortnight ago and was warmly received by senior Soviet leaders, including Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Kosygin. There has been an increase in economic ties between India and the Soviet Union recently and the Soviet Union is India's single largest trading partner.

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## OVERSEAS NEWS

## Syrians storm Christian stronghold

BY IHSAN HIJAZI

UNDER THE HEAVIEST barrage of artillery fire since the Arab peacekeeping force at dawn today stormed a militia stronghold in the Christian suburbs of Beirut, more than 20 of the soldiers who had been besieged since Saturday.

The bombardment, with the heaviest Syrian forces possessing, began shortly before dawn and did not subside for more than three hours. A communiqué by the Syrian-dominated command of the Arab force said the barrage was continued on the soldiers, 10 of them wounded, were brought out.

The Christian militia, however, kept up their pounding of Syrian positions and the predominantly Moslem quarters of West Beirut. The shelling from Syrian positions last night was so heavy that practically every house in

Christian East Beirut was hit, and Christians put their casualties during the past 24 hours at 300 and claimed that the Syrians suffered 400 casualties.

The exchanges shattered a ceasefire which was arranged on Saturday after a day of intense artillery duels.

The militias were today placed on full mobilisation and were reported to be massing at the Beirut quarter of Doran.

A communiqué by the Syrian command warned them against any reckless action and threatened to retaliate strongly to the Syrian forces.

Former President Camille Chamoun, the main right-wing leader, said his militiamen were determined to fight until the last Syrian soldier had left Lebanon.

Only an international initiative could end the Lebanese impasse, he said.

His remarks came amid

speculations by diplomats that the United States might call for a Security Council meeting to consider sending UN troops to police the Lebanese Christian areas and to replace the Syrians there.

Some 6,000 UN soldiers are already on duty in Southern Lebanon close to the border with Israel. They were sent there after the Israeli invasion of the region last March.

President Elias Sarkis is expected to address a message to the nation shortly. Radio Beirut has been telling Lebanese to stand by for the message.

Mr. Sarkis threatened last July to resign after fierce clashes between Syrian troops and the Christian militias. He later took back the threat but was reported to have said that he would resign if the fighting recurred on a large scale.

Much of the fighting during the past few days was in the vicinity

of the presidential palace at the suburb of Baabda and the President is reported to have spent hours in the basement of his residence.

Reuter adds: President Elias Sarkis said in a broadcast today that he had decided to form a new Cabinet of political leaders to tackle the crisis. A new security plan would be implemented within 10 days to end the fighting.

The President said the deterioration of the security situation had exceeded all limits to the point where the foundations of the state were on the verge of collapse.

Mr. Sarkis deplored the results of the heavy fighting and said that he had developed the conviction that this kind of suppression against groups of inhabitants or entire areas, whatever their reasons, is not an effective remedy.

BEIRUT, Oct. 2.

## AMERICAN NEWS

## Chrysler raises 1979 car prices by average 4.2%

BY STEWART FLEMING

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.

CHRYSLER CORPORATION, a vehicle on average, said that the largest of the U.S. car prices were in line with manufacturers' fall into line President Carter's effort to achieve deceleration of price increases. The company announced an average increase of 4.2 per cent in prices that it would continue to make every effort to meet the goals of the President's price deceleration programme.

Earlier General Motors, the industry leader, announced that it would raise its prices by an average of 4.1 per cent or \$302 materials, plant modernisation, and labour incurred with the showroom price of a GM car to introduction of the new models.

The rise means that a new number two, has already car in the U.S. will cost about \$7,667. Ford, the industry leader, has already car in the U.S. will cost about \$7,667. Ford, the industry leader, has already car in the U.S. will cost about \$7,667.

Chrysler in announcing the same time last year, because the increases, which it put at \$279 major producers had already

increased prices by 2 per cent. Their ability to raise prices has been helped, particularly with the smaller models by the decline in the dollar which has resulted in rising prices for imported rivals. Last year, too, the industry raised prices by about 6 per cent.

A question still hanging over the companies, however, is the strength of the market in 1979. Some forecasters are expecting demand for cars, which has been at near record levels this year, to slacken in 1979, and that could put pressure on dealers to offer discounts. So far, however, these predictions of weakening demand have not been fulfilled.

## Heavens open on Carter's birthday

By Jurek Martin

DISNEYWORLD, Oct. 2.

YOU CAN tell the tide is turning for President Jimmy Carter. There he was last night, on his 54th birthday, standing on a huge stage in front of the extraordinary chocolate box confection known as Cinderella's Castle, centerpiece of the improbable resort complex known as Disneyworld, addressing, of all improbable people, an audience of several thousand international businessmen.

He had been giving his listeners, delegates to the 26th meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), what might be described as the corporate version of his old campaign speech—that is, the need for more morality and responsibility in the boardrooms.

He had been delivering it in reasonable style. He had even managed the only jockey of a solemn and oppressively hot Florida evening. He was very glad, he said, to be visiting Disneyworld, "because it is a source of inspiration to my economic advisers." The crowd was mildly amused.

The President finished his speech, waved and disappeared into the inner recesses of Cinderella's Castle, on which a variable force of floodlights were playing in ever-changing coloured patterns. As he did so, and as the Disney trumpeters, garbed in heraldic uniforms, played their unimpeachable fanfare of the evening from the towers, the heavens opened with the most violent of tropical thunderstorms.

Not even the fabled efficiency of the Disney staff, who had umbrellas in everyone's hands within minutes, could save the audience from a drenching. The point is that a few weeks ago, before Camp David, it would have been a stone-cold certainty that the rains would have come while the President was in full oratorical flight.

Mr. Carter came to Florida yesterday not to make news but to enjoy his birthday and to enjoy his respite from the public eye. While touring the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) facilities at Cape Canaveral (NASA was also celebrating an anniversary, its 25th, yesterday), he let drop on his respite from the public eye. While touring the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) facilities at Cape Canaveral (NASA was also celebrating an anniversary, its 25th, yesterday), he let drop on his respite from the public eye.

Mr. Carter did not even engage in much overt hand-polluting, as he did a week ago in the Carolinas, Ohio and Pennsylvania, though he was accompanied by the usual retinue of Democratic members of Congress from Florida. For once, he was revealing in the perks and privileges that come with the presidency; but these are activities which, by the local media, can be translated into votes come election time.

Mr. Carter also showed yesterday, in undemanding circumstances, that he has not lost his 1978 knack of appealing to the public performance. He seemed at ease in both those town monuments to different forms of American enterprise—grinning a lot and occasionally shirt-sleeved, dutifully reverent and humorous by turns, and communicating his own sense of enjoyment.

Disneyworld is a remarkable place. Whatever one's opinion of its aesthetic qualities, it obviously attracts more people than it repels. It is also attractive (and possibly repellent) more and more to international people. The Saudi Arabian Finance Minister, for example, came here on holiday in August—and conducted urgent talks on the oil with the Secretary of the Treasury in the process.

The businessmen here for the ICC conference can be seen wandering round the hotel and amusement facilities with a certain wide-eyed wonderment on their faces.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of Germany and Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser of Australia, however, decided in the end not to attend this week's convalescence, probably because of pressing business at home, but possibly because they were concerned at the potentially adverse consequences for both their aesthetic sense and their public image. After all, it takes a man like Jimmy Carter, feeling on top of the world just now, not to mind being seen in the company of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

## Congress bid to solve tax aspects of energy plan

BY DAVID BUCHAN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.

MEMBERS of the two Houses of Congress are trying to thrash out their differences on the tax aspects of President Carter's energy programme, in time for the whole package to be voted on before Congress adjourns in two weeks' time.

Principally at issue is the maximum \$400 tax credit for home insulation, which both the Senate and House of Representatives have separately passed, but which Senate members are not apparently urging be dropped in favour of expanded income-tax cuts.

The credit, designed to encourage better insulation and installation of other energy-saving devices, is one of the remaining parts of the proposals made by Mr. Carter last year to encourage energy conservation.

His proposals for a tax on crude oil and an increased tax on gasoline got nowhere in Congress. It is, however, probable that Congress will agree to a tax on so-called "gas guzzler" cars. But this will not include Mr. Carter's accompanying proposal for a rebate on cars with better than average mileage to the gallon.

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## Rise in imports hits Mexican current account

By William Chislett

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 2.

MEXICO'S current account balance of payments deficit in the first half of this year amounted to \$596.5m compared with \$337.1m in the same period last year, according to official figures released by the Bank of Mexico.

The deficit for the second quarter amounted to \$586.8m, more than twice as much as the same period last year, when the deficit was \$280.9m.

It is unofficially estimated that the deficit will grow to \$2.4bn by the end of the year (1977 was \$1.7bn). This reflects an import boom resulting from the general economic recovery after the 1976 devaluation of the Mexican peso.

Industrial production rose by 2.3 per cent in 1977 and this year an 8 per cent rise is being confidently predicted.

The latest foreign trade figure showed a deficit in June of \$242.6m, compared with \$102.5m in June 1977.

Other statistics released by the Central Bank revealed a 1.6 per cent increase in the consumer price index in July.

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## Sadat appeals to Assad and King Hussein

BY ROGER MATTHEWS

CAIRO, Oct. 2.

PRESIDENT SADAT today made his most vigorous appeal yet to other Arab leaders to join the Middle East peace process.

A speech lasting nearly three hours to the People's Assembly, Mr. Sadat urged these states to study the positive aspects of Camp David and to shoulder their responsibilities.

In a parallel development, Mr. Sadat issued a decree appointing Mr. Mustafa Khalil, former secretary-general of the now defunct Arab Socialist Union, as Prime Minister. He succeeds Mr. Mamdouh Salem, who had headed the Government since April 1973. Mr. Khalil joined Mr. Sadat's recently-formed National Democratic Party (NDP) yesterday, and his appointment forms part of an already announced restructuring of the Government.

Mr. Sadat said in his speech that the Middle East at last had

the prospect of being able to reach a comprehensive agreement with Israel and breathe new life into the peace process.

He appealed directly to King Hussein of Jordan and to President Assad of Syria to join in the search for peace.

Mr. Sadat invited President Carter to be present in Cairo for the signing of the peace treaty with Israel. The American people should be proud of their President, he said, because he was among those world leaders who had changed the pattern of history.

Mr. Sadat said that the Egyptian leader said that negotiations aimed at reaching a peace treaty would begin soon and that he hoped total Israeli withdrawal from Sinai could be accomplished in a very much shorter time than the usual three years.

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drawal from occupied territory and what applied to Sinai would also apply to the Golan Heights.

It was now up to the Syrians to join talks that would lead to the recovery of their territory.

Mr. Sadat repeatedly said that there could be no comprehensive agreement without solving the Palestinian problem and that the Camp David accords were just the first step on this road. He urged the Palestinians outside the West Bank and Gaza to stop squabbling among themselves, and to accept the opportunity that was offered.

Mr. Sadat avoided any direct personal criticism of other Arab leaders (apart from calling Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya an "insane child"). He tried instead to draw a link between Syria's difficulties in Lebanon and its association with the Soviet Union. Moscow, Mr. Sadat implied, was at the root of most

inter-Arab problems.

Reuter reports from New York: Saudi Arabia has reassessed its initial rejection of the Camp David accords and now views the agreements as a major step towards peace, according to Newsweek.

The shift in Saudi Arabia's position, the magazine said, was disclosed in an interview with Saudi officials who accompanied King Khalid to Cleveland last week. The Saudis also told Newsweek they looked favourably on the proposal for Palestinian self-government on the West Bank. But the Saudis told Newsweek they were determined to head off a separate peace between Israel and Egypt.

AP reports from Baghdad: President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr of Iraq is sending a personal envoy to Syria to explain his proposals for countering the Camp David accords.

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## Flood fear for Bangkok

Serious flooding was reported in Northern Thailand and officials feared it could hit the Bangkok area within the next few days, Reuter reports from Bangkok.

Radio Thailand reported that floodwaters fuelled by two weeks of heavy rain were sweeping through several northern provinces, causing damage to major communication and road links and ruining large areas of rice-fields.

Officials in Bangkok feared that waters from the swollen northern rivers pouring into the main Chao Phraya river might affect several provinces in the central area, including the capital.

Vietnam charge Vietnam described Cambodia's stated readiness to conclude a peace treaty with Vietnam as "a trick of Cambodian leaders to conceal their hostile policy against Vietnam," AP reports from Bangkok.

Dalai Lama visa The Japanese Government has instructed its embassy in New Delhi to issue an entry visa to the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of exiled Tibetans living in India, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Tokyo, Reuter reports. The Government has decided to allow him to enter Japan for a six-day international Buddhist conference.

Japan reserves up Japan's external reserves rose by \$75m last month to \$28,440m, the Finance Ministry said in Tokyo yesterday, Reuter reports. The total was up from \$17.5bn in September 1977, only just below the record \$28,470m held at the end of last July.

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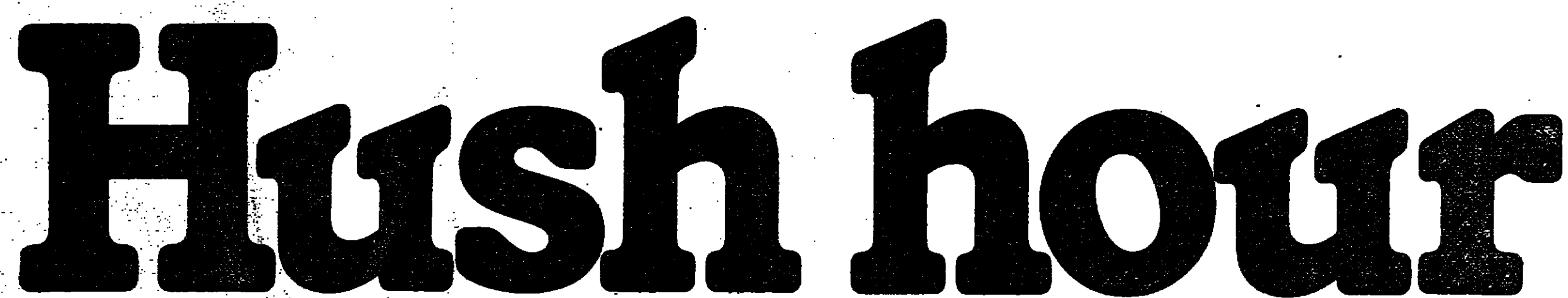
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## Beecham challenges drug patent ruling

BY KEVIN DONE

THE BEECHAM GROUP is taking its long-running legal battle with Bristol-Myers, U.S. pharmaceutical company, to the Court of Appeal.

It is challenging an unfavourable decision earlier this year by the Patent Court, suspending Beecham's patent for the antibiotic, amoxycillin. The patent was granted in 1977.

Whichever company wins the next round, the dispute is unlikely to be settled finally until the case is heard by the Lords. Beecham was the most actively traded share on the stock market yesterday, after rumours of an unfavourable court ruling overseas. The company denied the rumours.

The share price closed 10p down at 705p, after falling as low as 690p.

Beecham has been involved in legal actions with Bristol-Myers

for several years in an attempt to protect its interests in amoxycillin, a broad spectrum antibiotic launched on the UK market in 1972. The drug can be used in a wide range of bacterial infections, including bronchitis and kidney and liver diseases.

This latest legal move concerns an action begun by Bristol-Myers contesting the amoxycillin patent granted to Beecham in 1977.

Bristol-Myers appealed against the granting of the patent and the Patent Court ruled in its favour in July.

Problems between the two companies have arisen from a manufacturing and marketing agreement reached in 1959.

Beecham had made a major breakthrough with the development of semi-synthetic penicillins, but at the time needed assistance in setting up manufacturing process. The

necessary expertise was supplied in part by Bristol-Myers, which in return was given manufacturing and marketing rights in certain countries.

Last autumn the House of Lords ruled in Beecham's favour in another action, by confirming that amoxycillin was not included under the 1959 agreement.

Since losing the licensing case, the U.S. company has turned its attention to challenging the legitimacy of Beecham's patent for amoxycillin in about 12 countries, including the UK. The only country where the case has been resolved is Japan, where the final ruling was in Beecham's favour.

In about eight countries, Beecham itself has taken action, alleging infringement of its patents. It has been facing increasing competition from unlicensed sales in some markets.

## Pressure fault hits Brent oil pipeline

BY KEVIN DONE, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

SHELL/ESSO has hit further problems in the commissioning of the 96-mile-long oil pipeline running from the Brent complex of North Sea fields to Sullom Voe in the Shetland Islands.

Shell said yesterday that pressure-testing of the pipeline had been suspended after a sudden, unexpected drop in the pressure of water being forced through the line.

Engineers have started to check the cause of the drop, but it could be some time before this is established.

Crude oil from the Dunlin Field is scheduled to flow along the pipeline later this month to

Sullom Voe, which will eventually become the biggest oil terminal of its kind in Europe, providing about half the UK's crude oil needs.

At the weekend, Shell cleared another problem—an obstruction inside the line left over from the construction period.

The latest difficulty could be simply a problem with either pumping equipment or safety valves along the pipeline. A more serious cause being considered, though, is that the pipeline itself could have been ruptured somewhere between the Cormorant Field platform and Sullom Voe.

## NCB pensions fund topped up by £59m

BY ERIC SHORT

THE NATIONAL Coal Board has had to pay an additional £59m into its staff superannuation scheme to maintain the real value of its pensions for 1978. This was revealed in the scheme's latest report, for the year ending April 5.

The pension scheme, which covers the board's management, supervisory and clerical staff, provides for the revaluation of pensions each year in line with the movement in the retail price index.

The index increased by 13 per cent in the 12 months to November 1977, but the actuary to the fund had advised that the scheme's own resources would support a rise of only 5 per cent.

The Board agreed to make the additional payment to en-

able the full increases to be paid. This year's payment was twice the amount of the normal contributions paid by the Board.

This is the third year in succession the Board has had to pay extra to ensure that the level of pensions maintains their real value.

The report shows that the fund increased by £112m over the year to £762m. Total income for the year amounted to £163m, of which £102m came from contributions and £61m from investment income. Benefit payments amounted to £52m.

At the end of the year, the scheme's assets were divided 63 per cent in equities and fixed-interest securities, 31 per cent in property and 6 per cent in liquid form.

## Sales of durable goods rise 11% in a year

BY DAVID FREUD

SALES OF durable goods have risen sharply over the last 13 months, confirming that consumer confidence is now well-established. In June-August sales were 11.1 per cent higher than the same period a year ago in real terms.

Sales of durables were the fastest-growing area in the overall expansion of retail sales, which were 6.5 per cent higher in the latest three months than a year earlier.

The revised index of the volume of retail sales for August, released yesterday by the Department of Trade, was slightly above the buoyant original estimate at 111.8 (1971=100, seasonally adjusted). This was more than the final figure of 111.4 for July and close to the original estimate of 111.1 for August.

At the same time new instalment credit advanced by finance houses and retailers continued to expand. Total advances were 5 per cent higher in June-August than in the previous three months, seasonally adjusted.

Although the total is in current prices, there has still been a substantial gain in volume.

The revised figure for retail sales confirms that June-August was the first three-month period in which the volume of spending in shops exceeded the average level in the peak year of 1973.

In June-August sales were 3 per cent above the level in the previous three months. Sales of durable goods were 7 per cent higher over the same period, while clothing and footwear sales were up 4.3 per cent.

The smallest rise was seen in the volume of sales by food shops, up only 0.7 per cent in June-August compared with the

### HIRE PURCHASE CREDIT AND RETAIL SALES

(Seasonally adjusted)

	New credit extended by		Total debt outstanding (unadjusted) £m	Retail volume (revised)	
	Houses £m	Retailers £m		Total (1970=100)	Durable goods shops
1976 1st	340	493	2,349	105.9	117
2nd	382	490	2,424	106.9	122
3rd	392	521	2,516	107.3	125
4th	421	547	2,716	105.9	124
1977 1st	457	550	2,792	103.3	116
2nd	486	561	2,930	102.5	118
3rd	544	605	3,108	104.3	121
4th	585	604	3,341	104.4	121
1978 1st	626	634	3,507	106.3	125
2nd	716	677	3,797	108.0	129
February	201	217	3,429	106.8	130
March	212	201	3,507	107.0	117
April	231	232	3,594	106.7	132
May	243	228	3,689	108.4	126
June	242	217	3,797	108.7	130
July	213	245	3,831	111.4	138
August	252	241	3,953	111.8	134

Source: Department of Trade

## Rolls-Royce reveals plans for novel nuclear reactors

BY DAVID FISHLICK, SCIENCE EDITOR

TWO NOVEL schemes for small nuclear reactors based on experience in designing the Navy's submarine reactors were disclosed by Rolls-Royce in Basle yesterday.

The company was making its debut at the Nuclex nuclear exhibition and congress following its decision to diversify into civil nuclear power. It is the major shareholder in Rolls-Royce and Associates, a defence research, design and procurement company for the construction and servicing of submarine reactors.

One civil scheme disclosed by Rolls-Royce Nuclear Power is to factory-build small nuclear power plants, perhaps of about 200 MW electrical output—the output of Calder Hall, Britain's first nuclear station—using the shipyard practices established for submarine reactors.

The pressurised water reactor, several times the size of that for a submarine, would be prefabricated on a barge, together with its turbo-generator and associated plant, then floated to a coastal site and cemented in place.

The company believes such an approach could solve two problems facing the electrical supply industry: how to assemble

nuclear plant on-site under sufficiently tightly controlled conditions, and how to provide power economically to peripheral parts of a large network, such as the South-West of England.

The scheme, still in the planning phase, is being funded by Rolls-Royce, which admits that it is unsure about the size of reactor which would offer the best international market prospects. The French have already proposed a reactor of 125 MW.

The second scheme is for a nuclear reactor of only 28 MW, providing the power for a sea-bed oil production facility to replace the platform in very deep or hostile waters. It is being investigated as part of a film EEC-funded study of sub-sea production technology, carried out in conjunction with Sir Robert McAlpine, BICC and Humphreys and Glasgow.

Two potential power schemes are being studied by Rolls-Royce. One would provide power from gas turbines on the sea surface, through a new type of cable designed by BICC, to withstand the pitching and rolling of the powerpack.

The nuclear alternative would be a miniature pressurised water reactor, smaller than the submarine reactor. Each reactor

would have three generating sets—two to provide the 25 MW net electrical output and one in reserve. Rolls-Royce envisages a cylindrical nuclear pack nearly 60 metres long and 10 metres in diameter, weighing about 4,000 tonnes and designed to operate at depths up to 1,500 metres.

Venezuela has apparently caused the British nuclear industry some embarrassment by showing interest in buying a Magnox first-generation nuclear plant to produce electricity and fresh water. Admiral Jesus Taborda, head of the Venezuelan atomic energy commission, has been touring UK nuclear facilities in the past few days as the guest of GEC Reactor Equipment.

Britain completed the last plant of this type nine years ago and has no plans to design another. Changing safety requirements would necessitate virtually a complete redesign.

GEC has suggested that Venezuela might take advantage of the UK's experience of gas-cooled reactors by ordering a standardised 660 MW advanced gas-cooled reactor of the kind being designed for the UK's new nuclear stations, and operating it at lower power levels until its own electricity demand builds up.

## Two join Kirkby probe

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

A CIVIL servant and a the PA report at the start of this year which said that the Mersey-side-based co-operative needed a £2.5m injection over three years, on the future of the Kirkby plus various management and other changes.

The civil servant is Mr. Brian Hilton, the Industry Department's assistant secretary on regional aid, nominated by the Government.

The consultant is Mr. Jack Marsden, of PA Management Consultants, who was nominated by the co-operative. He prepared

## Work starts on Ulster car plant site

By Our Belfast Correspondent

EARTH moving has started on the site of the £85m sports car plant, announced two months ago for Dunmurry, near Belfast.

The work was launched officially at a ceremony yesterday by Mr. John De Lorean, founder of the De Lorean Motor Company of Detroit, which plans to start production early in 1980.

Recruitment has started for 40 production engineers for assembly line training. The labour force will eventually total about 1,000.

## Steel Board plans to shut 52-year-old rolling mill

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE BRITISH STEEL Corporation gave unions preliminary notice last night that it wanted to close the 52-year-old Victoria rolling mills at Coatbridge, Strathclyde. The mill has been losing £1m a year.

The decision follows a review of BSC's seven light section mills which showed that while total capacity was 380,000 tonnes a year demand was less than 200,000 tonnes. The Victoria works is the oldest, and said to be the least efficient, of the

No date was given for the closure. It will mean loss of 180 jobs. Redundancy terms will be worked out with the unions.

Steel at the mill has to be dragged through the rollers, using things. BSC said it had found it increasingly difficult to recruit men to do the work. Transferring work to other mills will save £800,000 a year without significant loss of market share or service to customers.

## The Eighth Sea.

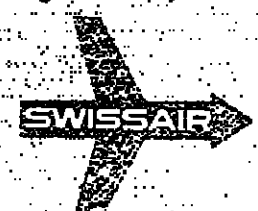
Do you know what Snow Beach is? It's the high-altitude beach at the feet of the Alpine peaks.

Along with seas of fog, which dissolve into nothingness from one hour to the next, it has two suns: a summer sun and a winter sun.

And in general everything else a romantic or sophisticated beach can claim, only a bit different. Instead of just water-skis, real skis; instead of pedal-boats, horse-drawn sleighs; instead of sail-boats, sail-planes; instead of soft ice, eternal ice; instead of gulls, eagles; instead of picturesque fishing villages, picturesque mountain villages; instead of ports, airports; instead of beach bands, waltz in the village church; instead of frutti di mare, mountain cheese; instead of fountains, real waterfalls; and instead of swimming instructors, ski instructors like the snows of the slope.

Snow Beach extends from Grenoble to Salzburg; the eighth sea has the loveliest ice-bergs of all the seas; and Swissair modestly offers itself as the Snow Beach merchant marine and passenger line (from almost 90 destinations the world over to the ports of Zurich, Geneva, and Basel-Mulhouse).

DC-8, DC-9, DC-10, Boeing 747, etc.





## HOME NEWS

## MP aims to control auditors' shares

FURTHER STEPS to secure legislation forcing auditors to disclose their shareholdings in audit client companies will be made in the next session of Parliament by Mr. Terence Higgins, Conservative MP for Worthing.

Mr. Higgins, a former Minister of State at the Treasury and Opposition spokesman on Trade, introduced a Private Members Bill on the subject in July. This was mainly to stimulate discussion, since he knew it had little chance of being debated before the end of the present session.

He said: "It is pretty clear we shall have a Companies Bill in the next session—it is quite appalling the Government did not introduce one in the latest session. It remains to be seen if it covers this point."

In any case, Mr. Higgins expects to press ahead with another Bill on the matter. He is in favour of self-regulation for the accountancy professions, but believes legislation would make the professions' own efforts in this area more effective.

His original intention was to attempt to make it illegal for auditors to hold shares in client companies.

## Gas flue danger survey planned

A SPOT survey of about 500 older houses is planned by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities to try to discover the extent of the dangers where solid fuel grates have been converted to gas fires.

## Whitbread confirms police inquiries

BY PAUL TAYLOR

WHITBREAD, Britain's third largest brewer, yesterday confirmed that police were investigating allegations that employees in the company's East Pennines division had made extensive commission payments to club officers and others to win trade.

Whitbread East Pennines stated yesterday that the company had been co-operating fully with Sheffield police for the past two months after allegations made by Mr. Joseph Short, a former credit controller with the company.

Mr. Short's allegations were published in the Guardian newspaper yesterday, but the company statement said: "Both Whitbread East Pennines and Mr. Short were asked by the police not to discuss these matters in public. Unlike Mr. Short, Whitbread East

Pennines proposes to continue acting in accordance with the police request."

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Little, head of South Yorkshire Fraud Squad, confirmed the request had been made. He said: "We are continuing our investigations into these matters."

## Discounts

Mr. Short's allegations are understood to centre on payments to individuals rather than club funds or licensed premises to encourage beer, wine and spirits orders.

There is strong competition between brewers in the expanding clubs sector. Since 1945, the number of licensed clubs has increased from 17,000 to 31,000. Brewers sometimes offer capital to develop club facilities in

return for the franchise.

Mr. Frank Morris, general secretary of the 4,000-strong Working Men's Club and Institute Union, said yesterday that some clubs received barterage discounts on beer sales.

Commission payments to individual club members or officials would contravene Section 41(2)(d)(ii) of the Licensing Act, 1964, and make the club liable to lose its licence, he said.

Discounts for large orders were "fairly commonplace" but the payments would be made to the club itself rather than to individuals.

The Brewers' Society said discounts were part of normal trading practice, but the subject had not been discussed in the society.

## Canley produces first TR7

THE FIRST Triumph TR7 sports car rolled off the assembly line of the company's Canley plant in Coventry yesterday five months after the shut-down of the Speke factory on Mersey-side.

For Jaguar Rover Triumph, the specialist car company formed after the rationalisation of the old Leyland cars empire, the move to Canley meant that the car "will be restored to a satisfactory level of profitability," Mr. Pratt Thompson, managing director, said yesterday.

Mr. Thompson, speaking at the Coventry factory, said: "Speke was a very grave situation. It was a disastrous loss-maker. But bringing the TR7 to Canley will restore its profitability."

The Speke assembly line was closed down by Mr. Michael Edwards, BL chairman, after constant warnings about its lack of profitability.

The move to Canley will mean that by next summer TR7 output should reach almost 1,000 a week. At a projected rate of up to 45,000 cars a year—more than 80 per

cent destined for North America—the Canley output should be double that at Speke.

In the last full year at Speke only 23,000 cars of a programmed 42,000 were turned out.

Mr. Thompson said that the transfer to Canley had been achieved on schedule.

The plan was to build up output gradually, but to ensure that sufficient TR7s were available for the spring selling season in the United States. First cars would be shipped by the end of this year.

## SNP attacks oil policy

By Ray Ferman, Scottish Correspondent

THE Scottish National Party yesterday tried to revive oil as a political weapon by launching a new campaign under the slogan "The Boom that Never Was."

A leaflet being distributed widely by the party claims that North Sea oil is now worth £150bn, or £300,000 for every man, woman and child in Scotland. But, it goes on, since 1969 when the first discoveries were made there has been more unemployment, a faster rate of job losses, worse health service and housing, and greater poverty.

Mrs. Marjorie MacDonald, senior vice-chairman of the party, said: "The SNP in the world has discovered oil in its back garden and allowed its neighbour to exploit the benefits as has happened in Scotland. No oil-producing country has actually suffered a drop in living standards as the oil came on stream, as happened in Scotland."

"There has been no significant transfer of wealth created by the oil discoveries to Scotland or to the Scottish people. What has happened to the predicted boom?"

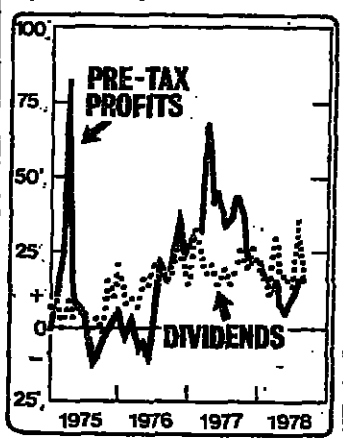
She demanded an economic plan for Scotland which set out the targets for full employment, modernisation of industry, retraining, the upgrading of schools, hospitals and roads, and a Scottish oil fund, with £1bn to spend in Scotland every year, and full economic powers for the proposed Scottish Assembly.

The SNP has successfully used the oil weapon in the past, notably in 1974 when it campaigned under the slogan "It's Scotland's oil." But the party's showing in the opinion polls has now slumped to little over half of its support at that time.

## Recovery of profits continues

PRE-TAX PROFITS of the 97 industrial companies which issued full reports and accounts last month were 15.9 per cent up on last year's comparable figure.

The increase was almost identical to the previous month's and continued the recovery trend begun in July.



Over the third-quarter of the year, the monthly profits increase has risen from the second-quarter average of 8.4 per cent to 13.8 per cent, which is still below the near 16 per cent average rise recorded in January-March.

Of the larger companies, the largest pre-tax profit gain was recorded by Davy Corporation, up 35.2 per cent on the previous year.

The cost of dividends was up 13.4 per cent on the comparable period which is almost one-half of last month's exceptional increase of 35.4 per cent. However, the sequence of dividend cost increases over the first three quarters of the year is 16.3, 19.6 and 23.9 per cent.

## £162,273 will

MR. WILLIAM H. LIDDELL, of Hendon, North London UK commercial director of Thora Lighting, who died when his Cessna aircraft crashed at Coventry airport in April, left £162,273 gross (£133,234 net).

## Brokers predict 10-11% inflation

BY MICHAEL BLANDEN

THE GROWTH of the economy is likely to slow sharply next year with inflation moving back into double figures, say stockbrokers, Phillips and Drew.

In their latest economic outlook the brokers forecast the Government's 5 per cent pay target will cause difficulties in the next few months and the outcome could be an increase of about 10 per cent in earnings in the present round. This would allow for a rise of 21 per cent above the guideline, similar to the experience of the last round. The brokers add that retail prices will rise by about 10 per cent to 11 per cent during 1979.

This inflation rate would give little scope for a rise in real personal disposable incomes unless the Government steps in with a Budget boost.

But with inflation picking up and only a small current account surplus, the brokers suggest the Government will next spring give only enough tax relief to offset fiscal drag.

As a result, a sharp fall in the growth of real income is predicted—from about 7 per cent in the year ending 1978 to only 1 per cent in 1979. This will bring a rapid slowdown in economic growth.

After a 31 per cent increase in real gross domestic product over the past year, Phillips and Drew are looking for a growth of only 1 per cent next year. Manufacturing production is expected to rise by 21 per cent after 4 per cent growth this year.

In spite of the slowdown and the extra benefits from North Sea oil, the brokers forecast a surplus of only £1.4bn on the balance of payments current account.

The slowdown in the economy is expected to provide a background conducive to a fall in interest rates, with the prospect of a 1979-80 public sector borrowing requirement of £34.9bn being financed comfortably within an 8-12 per cent money supply growth target.

## Greengrocers mount drive against 'roadside pirates'

BY CHRISTOPHER PARKES

BRITAIN'S greengrocers are being urged to vote themselves to protecting the consumer from the growing band of "roadside pirates and con-men" who are capturing an increasing share of the retail trade in fruit and vegetables.

The wholesalers' and retailers' organisations which launched the campaign in London yesterday said they had no quarrel with conventional farm shops. But they wanted their members to report to the local authority any stalls which they thought did not meet the necessary legal standards.

The National Federation of Fruit and Vegetable Trades and the Retail Fruit Trades Federation have published a guide outlining all the laws relating to roadside selling in order to help greengrocers spot the offenders.

According to the document, the faults to watch for include: breaches in hygiene requirements, weights and measures laws and regulations governing

pricing, Sunday selling, obstruction of the public highway and the Trades Description Act.

The traders are particularly angry at those farmers and others who buy fruit and vegetables in wholesale markets and sell it at the roadside as "home grown."

Sales of potatoes from the roadside—a trade estimated to account for 500,000 tonnes or 15 per cent of all trade in raw potatoes, and worth £20m a season—was also criticised.

Mr. Stan Westlake, of the retail federation, warned that bargain hunting at such outlets could lead to shoppers taking home potatoes rejected by legitimate merchants.

He also pointed out that prices were not necessarily lower than in the conventional greengrocer's shop.

Conventional shopkeepers had to work within strict legal limitations, he said, and in the interests of fair competition the same standards should apply to vendors operating in lay-bys and farm gateways.

## More productivity means more jobs - CBI chief

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

A CONTINUOUS improvement in productivity is vital if the UK economy is to survive, Mr. John Greenborough, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

Mr. Greenborough, opening the Production Engineering and Productivity Exhibition at Olympia, London, said that while manufacturing productivity had improved since the last war, it had not kept pace with competitors abroad.

"Our level of investment in manufacturing industry in relation to output does not appear very different from that of most of our main competitors, but the effectiveness of our investment

is very low.

"It is not that the average age of our machine tool is higher either. It is simply that workers in West Germany or the U.S. produce between two and three times as much as their British counterparts."

"Our lack of growth has prevented an increase in the number of jobs available. Growth via increased productivity creates jobs. For example, if we can get back 1 per cent of our share in world trade this could mean about an extra 400,000 jobs."

"If we can get back 5 per cent of our share of home market manufactures it could mean another 150,000 jobs."

## Iberia seeks advice on Gatwick switch

BY LYNTON MCLAIN

IBERIA, THE SPANISH airline, may start legal action against the UK Government later this week in protest against plans to move the airline from Heathrow Airport, to Gatwick from April 1.

The airline was told of the plans by the Trade Department in August and has since protested that the move would damage its commercial operations.

E.A. TAP, the Portuguese national airline and Gibraltar the Gibraltar airline are affected but Iberia is the first to seek legal advice. The airline hoped that court action would not be necessary, "but if no solution can be reached at Government

level, we will be forced to take legal action," Iberia said.

Iberia's solicitor was preparing a document on the strength of the airline's legal position and a final decision on whether or not Iberia takes legal action will be made by Friday or early next week.

The Government announced last month that all scheduled air services between Heathrow and Spain, Portugal, and their islands and Gibraltar would have to operate from Gatwick rather than Heathrow.

The transfers are part of an attempt by the Trade Department and the British Airports Authority to relieve growing congestion at Heathrow.

## Threat to 2,500 airport jobs

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

ANY DECISION by a future Scottish Assembly to take transatlantic air traffic away from Prestwick Airport, and give it instead to Glasgow and Edinburgh airports, would result in the closure of Prestwick and the loss of 2,500 jobs there.

The threat is disclosed in a discussion document prepared by the Scottish Airports division of the British Airports Authority outlining the options involved in reorganising the pattern of Scotland's air traffic.

The document is to be submitted to a conference called by the British Airports Authority in Glasgow on November 20, to consider future policy for the three Lowland Airports—Prestwick, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Plans postponed

EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS' plans to launch a new London evening newspaper and a new national Sunday newspaper have been deferred to allow the group to concentrate on the launch of the Daily Star, due for November 2.

## Licence dodgers

THE GOVERNMENT launched a big campaign aimed at detecting the 1m people who evade television licence payments, at a cost of £15m.

## Footwear fair

THE state of the British footwear industry is "encouraging," said Mr. Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, when opening the British International Footwear Fair at Olympia. Compared with two years ago, there had been a big increase in the value of exports.

## Tourist report

THE GLC tonight will debate a report by the council's minority Labour group on tourism in London. The report, which emphasises the financial benefits of tourism to London, includes a call for extended pub licensing hours.

## Noise payments

ABOUT 50,000 households may qualify for insulation against traffic noise. The amount involved may be between £300 and £700 per household after an admission by the Department of Transport of an error in the way the 1973 Noise Insulation Regulations were administered.

## Customers' man

WILLIAM Timmon, the footwear group, has become one of the first "X" companies to recruit a consumer affairs manager from outside industry to represent the interests of customers.

## £1m land plan

A £1m land reclamation scheme was given the go-ahead yesterday by Stoke-on-Trent City Council's land reclamation committee. The project covers 330 acres around the old Chatterley Whitfield colliery.

## Shetland row

CAPTAIN George Birt, Shetland's director of ports and harbours, resigned yesterday, a week after a public row between him and the council's chief executive, Mr. Ernest Urquhart over whether the £700m Sullom Voe oil terminal would be able to cope safely with giant oil tankers.

## Price probe for group of opticians

By Paul Taylor

THE PRICES and profits of four companies in the Dollond and Aitchison opticians group are to be investigated by the Price Commission.

The commission's inquiry under Section 5 of the 1974 Price Commission Act is due to be completed by December 20.

It will investigate the gross profit margins of Dollond and Aitchison and Wignone's, the highest street opticians who prescribe and dispense spectacles, spectacle lenses and contact lenses. The commission will also look at the prices at which these products are supplied to them by the other two companies in the group, Dollond and Aitchison Services and the Marylebone Optical Company.

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Net Cost of Project (£500,000 less £322,000)	£178,000	Tax allowance on plant and machinery (100% in 1st year)	£156,000
		Total Savings	£322,000

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## Shetland economy growing at over six times UK rate

BY OUR SHETLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE SHETLAND economy is growing at the rate of 8 per cent a year, compared with 11 per cent for the UK as a whole. Its wealth per head of population is higher than any comparable economy.

This has been disclosed in the findings of the latest study commissioned by the Shetland Islands Council. The 48-page report, analysing structure and performance of the Shetland economy in 1976-77, is the work of Dr. Iain McNicoll and Mrs. Gesa Walker, both of the Department of Business Studies at Edinburgh University.

The £7,500 report seeks to identify and measure the contribution by each industry to the local economy. It follows a similar exercise by Dr. McNicoll last year, based on 1971 figures. With the help of information

related investment imported substantial goods and services, with foreign capital coming in to finance these investments.

Dr. McNicoll said: "What we have here is a situation of economic development funded by outside development and investment. The traditional basic industries, however, are essential for the creation of local wealth, but they have undoubtedly declined in the past five years."

In 1971 the income of Shetland households was about £10m, and the deficit on balance of payments about £2m. The report shows that income put into people's pockets in 1976 from local industry ranged from £7m from oil and related developments; over £4m from fish processing; and £4.5m from local government.

In all-round economic terms, Shetland, according to the report, is performing particularly well.

The underlying theme is that if Shetland is to maintain its prosperity, decline in traditional industries must be halted.

The basic conclusion by Dr. McNicoll is that Shetland's economic structure is relatively stable over time. The traditional industries were found heavily dependent on external trade, selling up to 95 per cent of their output outside Shetland.

It was estimated that local output in fishing, fish-processing, textiles, and other manufacturing declined in total by £2.5m between 1971 and 1976.

Most growth since 1971 was concentrated in the service sector, stimulated by oil-generated demand.



# Control Data has earned a reputation for being 'more than a computer company.' Why?

We're more than just a major supplier of computer systems. We operate one of the World's largest data service companies. We manufacture and sell peripheral equipment and ancillaries. We've taken a lead role in the development and delivery system required to implement computer based education. We offer an extensive range of training facilities. We provide consulting, technology exchange and engineering services. We even offer a wide range of credit facilities. Clearly, we're more than a computer company.

You're also widely respected as the World's largest supplier of scientific and engineering computer systems. Can you help other types of customer?

Yes we can. Our expertise in networking and interactive computing gives us an important edge. We've systems operating in applications as diverse as banking, communications, insurance policy processing, service bureaux and health care. Customer appreciation is high because only a company with our breadth of skills could provide the total solution needed. Helping to find solutions to society's major problems is a key strategic goal for us.

With your skill in systems, why the emphasis on services?

There are many data processing applications that are best handled by a data service. For example, many important applications, with flexible usage, can be made quickly available with little or no capital investment. Applications already available through our data services offer significant cost and availability benefits to our customers in their programs to expand their data processing capabilities.

What Control Data Services are available to UK customers?

We offer the widest range of data services in the UK today. They fall into three categories:

1. Processing — a wide variety of business packages such as ledger accounting and payroll.
2. Timesharing services for planning, analysis and control of business operations.
3. Services which provide computer-based batch, remote batch and timesharing services for scientific and engineering users. We have a major data processing centre in London... and it's expanding fast. UK customers can take advantage of facilities offered by our global network.

What does your Professional Services Division offer?

Basically, unbiased solutions to customer problems. It's made up of people who are truly consultants. They are rated on how well they solve customer problems, even if the solution sometimes means we use competitive products or services.

You claim to be the supplier of the widest range of OEM peripherals. Does this help UK customers?

Beyond doubt. We sell to systems houses, leasing companies and computer companies. Using their label or ours. This provides them with the economies of mass manufacture and frees their resources to develop systems.

Do you supply peripherals to users of other manufacturers' large computers?

Yes. To users of IBM Systems 360, 370 and 3030 series. Here we provide compatible and cost-effective solutions for storage and mass storage.

What sort of engineering back-up do you give customers?

We operate a round the clock service throughout the UK. What's more, our engineering department will plan, upgrade or build installations for any kind or size of equipment. We've already planned or built many facilities to accommodate the equipment of every major computer manufacturer.

Your Control Data Institute is said to be the largest independent trainer of programmers, analysts and engineers. Once trained do these people find jobs?

Yes. More than 95% of our graduates, many of whom have been previously unemployed, find jobs within our industry. Those who were previously employed almost certainly improve their status and leave vacancies for less skilled people. We also provide, at no cost, to all companies within the industry the best source of trained people at a time when the industry is desperately short.

Do you manufacture in the UK?

Yes. We have a plant in South Wales which manufactures magnetic media. It has just been awarded the Queen's Award for Export Achievement. We also have joint ventures. With ICL we have a company which manufactures and supplies computer ancillary equipment. With ICL and NCR we are just starting manufacture of peripherals for both the UK and export markets. R & D costs are spread worldwide. Great economies are achieved by mass manufacture of major items.

Why do you have such a broad base of products and services?

Because the provision of hardware is only part of the customer's problem. His best solution may not even be the purchase of hardware at all. So it makes sense to provide products and services through the whole spectrum of computer-based solutions. Fortunately we've the experience, facilities and capability to provide them in depth and in a way that benefits our many users throughout the UK.

For additional information on how Control Data Limited may help your business write for this 36-page booklet, Control Data Limited, 22a St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

Managing Director, Jack Ward, answers this and other questions of direct interest to users and potential users of computer systems.

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# MANAGEMENT IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

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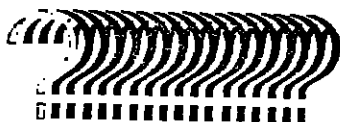
Keeping a business mind sharp and supple means regular work-outs. In the past nine years 45,000 people in the UK have found that the National Management Game has the enjoyment, the fascination and the competitive thrills of other intellectual games, and then more.

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Prizes amount to over £5,000 in value. The first prize will be £2,000 plus admission to the European Management Game Final in Paris in September, 1979. There will also be, for the first time, cash prizes for the second, third and fourth places, and silver "Armada Dishes" for all finalists. The presentation will be in London in July 1979. Free travel and accommodation will be arranged for teams in both British and European finals.

For full details, telephone the National Management Game Administrator, Jack Layzell, on 01 242 7806, or complete the coupon below. Entries must be received by November 6, 1978.

## National Management Game 1979



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I enclose the entry fee of £60 ☐  
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Please send an entry form and full  
details of the 1979 NMG ☐  
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FTI

## Huffing and puffing over Alberta's sticky oil problem

BY W. L. LUETKENS

IRONICALLY, it could hardly have gone further: a fire put Canada's brand new Syncrude synthetic oil plant out of action before the formal opening last month. It was one more in the series of vicissitudes that has dogged attempts to win oil from the famous Athabasca oil sands.

The sands contain hundreds of millions of barrels of oil—provided it can be extracted from a sticky, gritty mixture of bitumen and sand. Their first recorded use is by the Indians, who used the stuff to caulk their canoes. Attempts to turn them into a source of petroleum began early this century, without much visible success until 1967 when Great Canadian Oil Sands, an affiliate of Sun Oil of Chicago, started work with a plant using much the same technology as the \$2bn Syncrude plant completed this year.

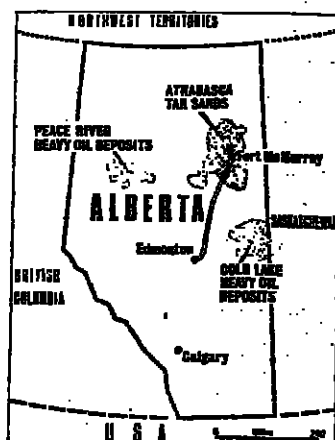
GCOS never did become profitable, partly because its capacity of around 60,000 barrels a day was simply too little, but also because it has been hit by a series of technical problems. Syncrude attempts to get around both difficulties: it is amply supplied with back-up facilities for unforeseen technical hitches (but as the fire showed, you cannot foresee everything); and it is laid out for an initial capacity, once bottlenecks have been cleared by 1982, of 129,000 b/d. All going well, another 60,000 b/d will be added later.

Syncrude, like GCOS, is a mining-cum-refining operation. The sand-bitumen mixture is sunken up by opencast methods; then the bitumen is separated from the sand by treating it with steam; finally the bitumen is refined into oil which is known in the trade as synthetic oil. The Syncrude site is expected to be worked for 25 years, and by 1982 is expected to supply about 7 per cent of total Canadian oil consumption. In other words it is an important move in the struggle to turn around the Canadian energy picture.

In the early 1970s Canada produced as much oil as it consumed (though half its needs were imported and half its production exported to the U.S.). But the oil fields are declining. In April the National Energy Board in Ottawa estimated that 1.5m b/d of light and heavy oil could be produced next year, but that the figure would have declined to 640,000 b/d by 1989 and to 460,000 b/d by 1995.

At the same time, the NEB

estimated that the oil sands Bay Oil and Gas, Pacific Petro- mated to a certain extent. They would yield 110,000 b/d from leum and Petrofina. All going do not allow for considerable Syncrude in 1979. By 1989 the well, the plant would be in finds of conventional oil which sands would be yielding 330,000 production by the mid-1990s. have been made in Alberta this b/d and by 1995, 580 b/d. These Imperial Oil, one of the partners year and last at Pembina. They are forecasts which explain why, in Syncrude, wants to begin have not yet been fully at a moment when the entire working heavy oil near Cold evaluated: depending upon Syncrude venture seemed to be Lake on a commercial scale which forecast you believe, upon collapsing under cost overruns, (producing 145,000-165,000 b/d) range from 200m barrels to the governments of Canada and having gathered experience with 1.5bn barrels (compared with Alberta, and of Ontario as the a pilot plant. It uses what is proven recoverable reserves in main consuming province, quietly known as the huff and stepped in to rescue it. They puff method: you "huff" down Alberta at the beginning of this became shareholders, along steam to soften the heavy oil year of 1.5bn barrels).



These are expensive methods of producing oil; even if technologies are greatly improved and new methods are found, the Athabasca oil potential will never be realised cheaply....

with Imperial Oil (Exxon), and Citicorp Service, but equally important they offered Syncrude a favourable financial regime. Alberta for a start-up period waives royalties, taking instead a share of profit provided there is one; and Ottawa guarantees Syncrude the world price for its crude oil, or some \$3 above the Canadian domestic price which is artificially held down to \$12.75 a barrel for the time being.

Similar privileges are promised, though they would still have to be negotiated in detail with any others who try their luck in the sands, or with the heavy oil deposits deep below the surface at Cold Lake, oil. The decline of the con- on the Alberta-Saskatchewan border, and near the Peace River, in north-western Alberta, that will grow from year to year. The heavy oil there is much year. The National Energy Board has just recommended the sands, though it is not a cessation of exports of light oil it cannot be made to flow without applying heat to soften 580,000 b/d next year to 1.5m b/d in 1995.

New ventures have already come forward: Shell is propos- ing a plant similar to Syncrude in partnership with Amoco, light of subsequent information, Syncrude's oil sand, are each Chevron, Dome, Gulf, Hudsons the NEB may have over- esti- longer than a football pitch.

and then, "puff"—up it flows. It sounds simple, but the technology is complicated and the energy consumed great, as in the sands. The company may open up a coal mine specifically for the purpose of producing steam to huff down.

Plainly, these are expensive methods of producing oil; even if technologies are greatly improved and new methods are found, the Athabasca oil potential will never be realised cheaply. The justification for going ahead is partly the prospect of a world oil shortage in the 1990s and partly national: Canada is one of the few industrial countries to have its own oil. The decline of the conventional oil fields has imposed a strain on external payments amount, which is calculated in River, in north-western Alberta, that will grow from year to year. The heavy oil there is much year. The National Energy Board has just recommended the sands, though it is not a cessation of exports of light oil it cannot be made to flow without applying heat to soften 580,000 b/d next year to 1.5m b/d in 1995.

These are huge figures. But maybe the scale of some of these ventures is more strikingly illustrated by the fact that the steel booms from which the scoops are operated, that mine Syncrude's oil sand, are each longer than a football pitch.

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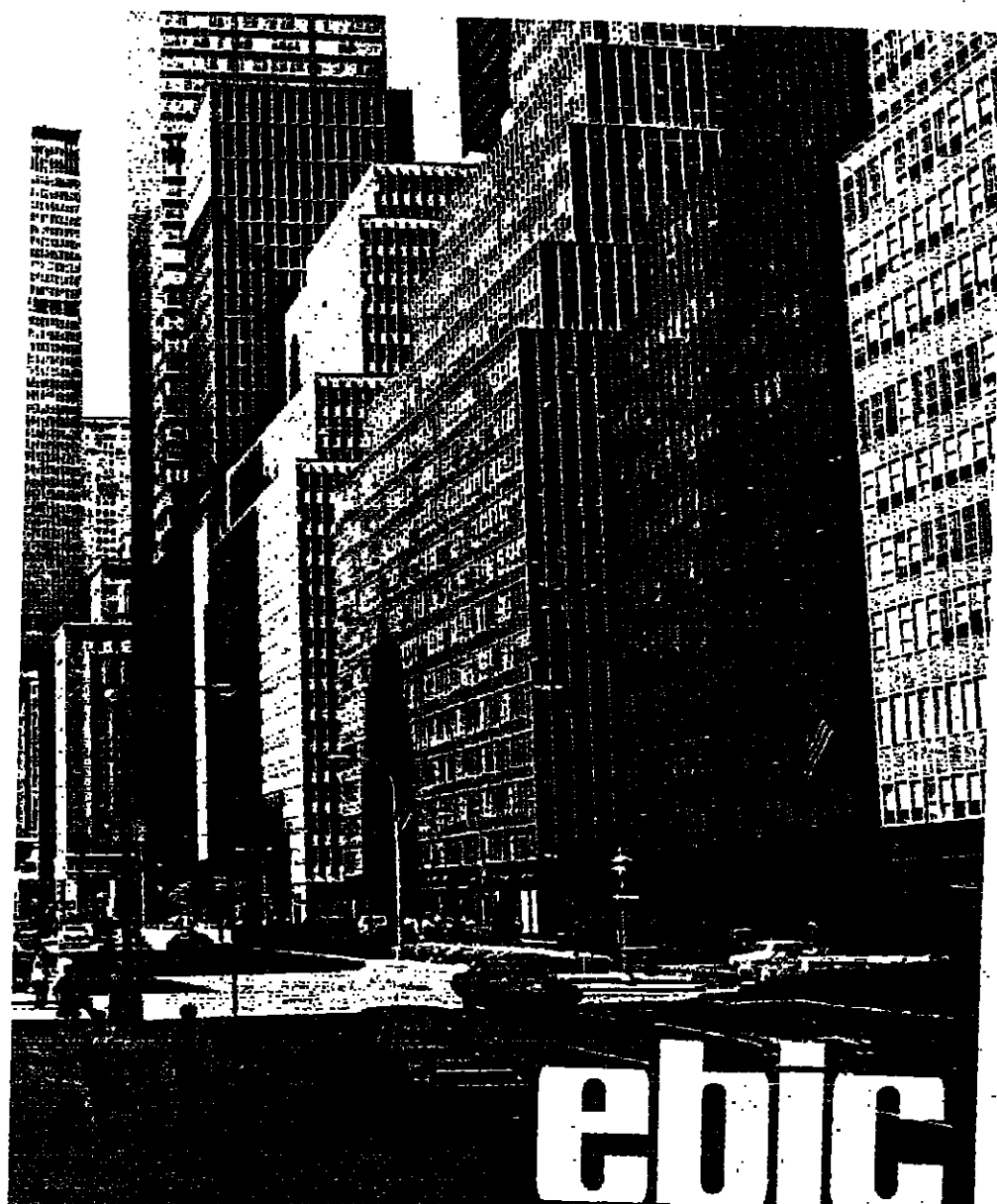
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## COMMUNICATIONS

### Talking and writing at the same time

FOR THE cost of a colour TV, a once development has been completed, a subscriber to the ordinary telephone service could transmit to the person he is ringing diagrams and written text, altering these as required.

Testing of the idea through pilot systems will begin in the Netherlands next year and the Philips Telecommunicatie Nederland—says its "Scribifoon" will be suitable for conferences and mobile applications.

Based on initial work in Delft University of Technology, the unit consists of a screen and a writing pad. This pad consists of a layer of plastics with wires in the X axis on top of it and in the Y axis below. A pen sent through the wires is detected by the pen connected to a decoder and the latter determines the position of the point of the pen at all times in function of measured intensity and time lag between start of the pulse and its detection.

The sequence of pen positions is transmitted over the telephone line to the small display screen at the receiving end, as the conversation proceeds.

When a group of people are using the system, the diagrams

appear on all the screens at the same time. Participants in the discussion can suggest additions or deletions since the equipment is designed to permit wipe-out as required. Furthermore, both the telephone discussions and the diagrams can be recorded on cassette tape for playback. There is an inhibit mode which ensures that only one person at a time can actually write or draw.

A very small section of the speech band is used for transmitting the diagrams and there is no loss of speech quality. Scribifoon would undoubtedly be a great boon to police and are brigades and there seem to be few obstacles to its rapid development with the great progress being made in microcircuit development at the moment. The only comparatively difficult piece of design is in the filter unit which separates speech signals from the pictures and is complex.

Like the extensive work this Philips group has done on TV-telephone systems, this particular project can be seen as a means of reducing the amount of travel senior staff have to undertake during the course of the year.

Further from Philips Industries, 8 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DT, 01-836 4360.

## RESEARCH

### Study of noise in ships

AGAINST A background of increasing concern for the seafarer's health, a three-year project begun in 1976, the Ship and Marine Technology Requirements board has given its support to a shipboard noise project proposed by the British Ship Research Association.

This is aimed at improving procedures for predicting noise levels in ships at the drawing board stage. It will be conducted in particular with a view to ensuring that every vessel meets its requirements in still in ships are planned by BSRA. A full-scale model of an accommodation space will be built to controlled conditions to be made on various materials and for various cabin arrangements.

The move follows the successful completion of an earlier three-year project begun in 1973. As in the previous project, all funding will be provided by the Department of Industry. The Department of Trade has recently published a Code of Practice for noise levels in ships, and has taken an active and supporting interest in both of the BSRA projects. In the introduction to the Code, the point is made that the technology needed to ensure that every vessel meets its requirements is still in the course of development. It is with this technology that the BSRA projects are directly concerned.

BSRA, Wallend, Tyne and Wear NE23 6UY. Wallend (0632) 25242.

## RADIO & TV

### Clear calls without stridency

PUBLIC ADDRESS systems tend to be strident, distracting and all too often incomprehensible. In libraries, offices and other areas where normal equipment would be too disturbing there is a need for some other form of paging.

This, it is suggested by Reliance Systems, could take the form of its "Whisper Speaker", which runs at only six decibels above the ambient noise level for the area which it is installed, but provides such clear sound quality that messages are immediately understandable.

Because it is so quiet, it generally operates through name recognition by the person called—others would tend to ignore messages not intended for them, the developers assert.

No pre-announcement chime or call signal would be needed and

any number of speakers can be included in the system, which comes no more expensive than standard equipment.

Reliance Systems, Turbels, Mill Lane, Wellingborough, Northants.

## EXHIBITIONS

### Recovery of waste

THE RECOVERY and reuse of society's waste in ways that will help conserve scarce natural resources and the recycling of much that is thrown away or discarded, and its rebirth as by-products, is the subject of the second Recycling World Congress and Exhibition to be held at the International Convention Centre, Manila, Philippines, March 19-22, 1979.

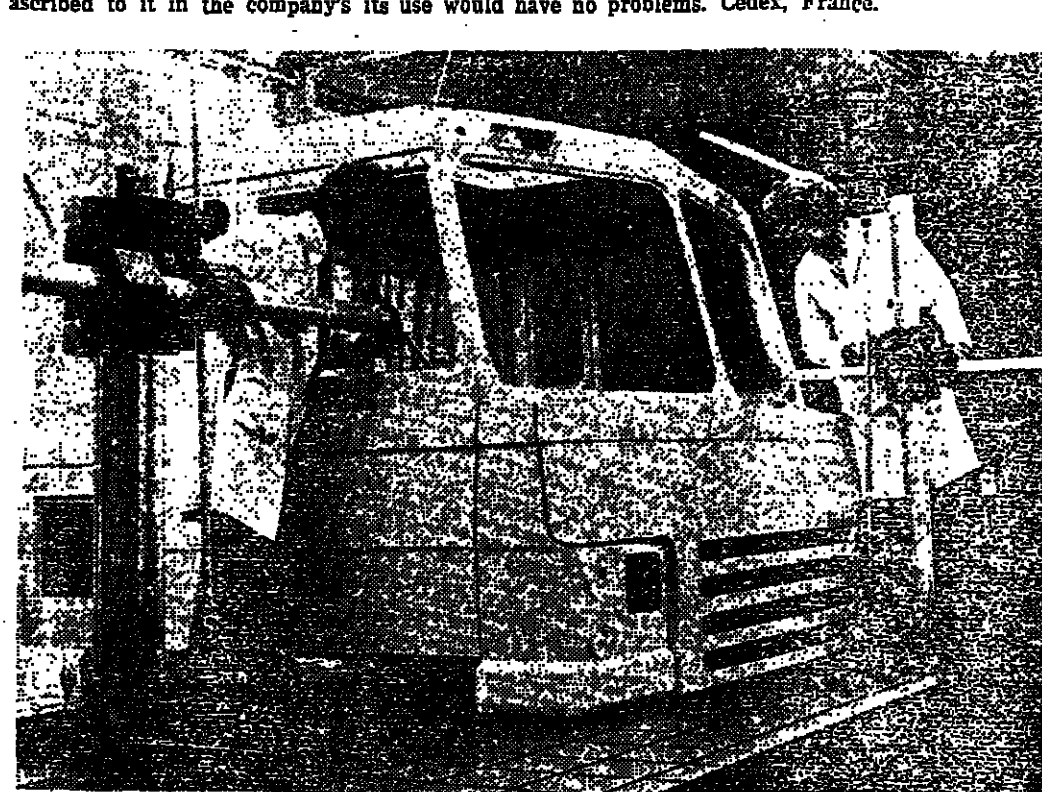
A brochure containing details of delegate charges, exhibition space costs, etc., is available from Recycling '79, 157, Station Road, East Oxley RH8 0QF, Surrey (08833 4371).

## MATERIALS

### Prevents splinters from flying

SECURIFLEX is the name of a new form of safety windscreen. These tests have been conducted up to impact speeds of 65 km/hour with completely satisfactory results. Moreover, windscreen is shattered in any leaf of plastic, which would normally be about 0.5 mm thick, is highly resistant to most of the soiling common to cars on the road.

It has self-healing properties and can stand the up to three attempts to stub out a cigarette in the same spot, closed, was developed by St. Gobain in its own laboratories in France and has been subjected to the most exhaustive tests, both in the U.S. and in Europe, to prove strip and, so far as can be seen, that it has, indeed, the properties a car manufacturer switching to it in the company's use would have no problems.



Dimensions of a cab for a Foden truck being checked in the new £70,000 standards room at the Coventry works of Motor Panels. A member of the Robery Owen organisation, the company also manufactures cabs for Leyland, ERF, Seddon Atkinson, Scammell and Floor of Holland and builds bodies for Daimler limousines. Designed for checking the accuracy of models, the standards room facilities are also used to carry out checks on cabs taken off production lines.

## PROCESSING

### Sterilises and cools cans

A SYSTEM designed to automatically sterilise and cool canned products in any standard size container at process temperatures up to 260 degrees F, has been introduced by FMC Corporation (UK), Holt Road, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 5JH. It can be built to customers' requirements by varying the

number of pressure vessels and less than in conventional retort systems as there is much less metal mass to heat, less metal surface subject to radiation losses, and no air venting requirements.

Fewer controls and instruments are needed and the system eliminates the use of cranes, hoists, dollies and dumps.

### Long strips cut small

LOW-COST equipment for cutting long strips of scrap into manageable pieces is the P/A scrap chopper which, because of its scissor-like operating characteristics, can cut materials from paper to 3/16 in. (4.8 mm) thick mild steel.

Main application for this new equipment may be dealing with the remains of metal strip that are continuously discharged from a press after components have been punched out of the material. The problem is, of course, to transform this unwieldy scrap into a compact bundle, which can easily be removed for sale and recycling.

One answer is to incorporate a cutter in the dies. Even when this is feasible, however, the pieces of scrap must still be removed from the tooling. Alternatively, the scrap may be broken up by a separate, power-driven machine.

P/A International has designed the scrap chopper as an inexpensive solution to the problem. The equipment can be mounted permanently at the side of a press, where the cut pieces will fall directly into a container. Owing to low cutting force the chopper can be driven by the press without affecting the latter's performance.

The unit can also be used to cut coiled stock to length. Serco (P/A Industries), 33 Highcroft Crescent, Milverton, Leamington Spa. 0926 38754.

### Treating the effluent

A SERIES of effluent treatment systems, designed to efficiently treat effluent containing emulsified hydrocarbons, has been introduced by Concept Equipment (International), Holwood House, 24 Holwood Road, Bromley, Kent (01-464 0621). The installation of its CK Deodorator, at the West Midlands PTE (passenger transport executive) has resulted in total alleviation of the discharge problem, says the company, coupled with a reduction in clean water intake.

The equipment is installed on a wall at the back of the depot and has an overall size of 11 ft 7 in long by 4 ft 10 in wide by 4 ft 7 in high.

An effluent analysis has shown a pH value of seven against a water authority permitted value of between 6 and 12; suspended solids measured 6.5 parts per million against 400 permitted; permanganate value was nil against 125 permitted; and chemical oxygen demand 60 parts per million against 600 permitted.

### Cleans at high pressure

ONE OF Europe's main suppliers of mobile hot and cold water high pressure cleaning equipment, Gerni of Randers, Denmark, has introduced a range of new machines. They are to be marketed through the company's UK sales office, Davellen, Fordham Road, Newmarket, Suffolk (0838 3887).

Mounted on three wheels, the hot water cleaners can also be used in conjunction with Gerni's A degrading detergent is used wet sandblasting equipment for the removal of rust and old paint. Each cleaner is provided with a trigger-operated lance with an

on/off control. Two principal machines in the range are the Fox 60 which operates at a pressure of 1,000 psi and the Fox 150 with an operating pressure of 2,300 psi.

Gerni is also introducing into the UK its Pony machine for cleaning vehicle brakes. Main advantage claimed is that—unlike compressed air systems—oil and grease is removed as well as dust, and either hot or cold water can be used. Electrically heated, the unit is mounted on four castor wheels.

## SAFETY

### Efficient respirator

LATEST valveless lightweight disposable respirator in the range offered by the occupational health and safety products group of 3M UK—the 3M 8711 spray paint respirator—offers protection against all paint formulations excluding those containing hardeners, i.e. isocyanates and other dangerous sensory materials.

Lightest spray paint respirator available, it weighs only two ounces, against the 12 oz of an average dual cartridge type. Wearer acceptability has been found to be extremely good in independent tests, which have also indicated that the performance of the respirator exceeds that of most dual cartridge types.

As the entire respirator is the filter, there is no cleaning necessary, and the cost of a respiratory maintenance programme, the need for additional cartridges, filters and spare parts, is eliminated. It comprises an exterior shell and a moulded interliner, between which is a filter of activated charcoal. A soft face seal gasket and flexible nosepiece incorporate a foam cushion, together with a durable double strap, ensure an effective and comfortable fit.

3M, 380 Harrow Road, London W9 2RU. 01-296 0044.

## PRINTING

### Cuts cost of print drying

MEDIUM-WAVE infra-red drying equipment is now being used at the printing works of Aftenposten, Oslo. The equipment has been designed and built by TRIAB/Tri Innovations AB of Sweden.

The drying oven is constructed from eight infra-red lamp cassettes, four insulation cassettes, four special evacuation cassettes and a control panel. The infra-red lamp cassettes are situated above and below the print to be dried; when the oven is in operation they are closed around the print deck by pneumatic rams.

The oven is currently used to dry, at about 140 degrees C, the pages of "A-Magazine" which is produced at the rate of 24,000 per hour. The Norwegian publisher expects now to save US\$30,000 a year on running costs.

Advantages offered to the printing industry using this technique are said to include low installation costs, reduced running costs (because of shorter drying time, lower curing temperatures and shorter warm-up time) and improved quality. The latter derives from the fact that medium-wave IR radiation will neither dry out paper nor turn it yellow.

Further from TRIAB at Argongatan 8, S-431 33 Mölndal, Sweden (031-27 21 30). Telex: 21563 triab s.

## CONSTRUCTION

### Dust-free flooring

A HIGHLY wear-resistant flooring, said to be ideal for semi-industrial situations, has been introduced by Index Finishes (UK), Index House, Dawkins Industrial Estate, Poole, Dorset BH15 4JY (02012 78861).

This epoxy flooring is said to be dust-free and easily cleaned, making it especially suitable for floor toppings in dairies, laboratories, bakeries, breweries, hazardous storage areas and light or medium industrial areas.

The flooring is seamless and resistant to a wide range of acids, alkalis, oils, solvents and general or commercial chemicals. It comes in a range of colours and is supplied as a two-pack material. After being mixed thoroughly prior to application it should become tack-free within six to eight hours of laying in normal temperature conditions and can be put to light use after

24 hours, although final cure is achieved some seven days after laying.

### New entrant to market

A DIVISION to market a range of hydraulic tools for the construction and public utility market has been formed by CCL Systems of Cabco House, Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey (01-390 1122).

The tools are to be known as the System 20 range and will initially include road breakers (medium and heavy), demolition picks, clay spades, heavy-duty water pumps, hammer and percussion drills, grinders, impact wrenches, drills, cut-off saws, chain saws, capstan winches, earth augers, and cable cutters.

Diesel, petrol, and electric power packs are to be supplied as well as a "plug-in" pack to connect these tools to other hydraulic powered equipment. The division will be appointing distributors throughout Europe during the next few months.

### Inspection chambers

IMPROVED means of access to house drains are provided by the latest unplasticised PVC inspection chambers devised by Marley Extrusions.

Within the 250 mm diameter tubular chamber there is a contoured ring seal plug which fits into a 150 mm opening to the drain and purpose made concrete covers are supplied complete with lifting keys. Rodding of the pipework to which the chamber is connected can be carried out in any direction from the chamber. Full details of the chambers may be obtained from Marley Extrusions at Lenham, Kent (0622 54366).

## MACHINE TOOLS

### Punches and notches

LATEST addition to the Kingsland Engineering Company's heavy duty metalworking machines is the J21/GXA Steelworker which may be used for punching, shearing, notching and other operations.

It has a 66-ton punching capacity and is fitted with power inching and electrically controlled clutches. It can punch steel-plate and sections up to a maximum of 3 inch thickness, and cut angle irons up to 5 inches x 1 inch and round or square bars up to 1 1/2 inches.

**TI Metsec**  
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West Midlands B69 4HE  
Tel: 021-552 1541

The machine will be demonstrated at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham from December 4 to 8. Kingsland's headquarters are at 25-37 Hackney Road, London, E2 7PA (01-739 5635).

## TRANSPORT

### Safer stops under heavy loadings

NEW WHEEL and axle assembly for articulated lorry trailers, incorporating static and dynamic brake load compensation, is announced by Alexander Marcar and Co., Richmond, Surrey.

The rigid, lightweight unit, designated VA, is capable of accepting loads up to 30 tons, and in all respects meets the braking requirements laid down in EEC Council regulations.

During every braking process, forces act on multi-axle units which tend to redistribute the load unevenly over the individual axles. To some extent, compensation for these moments is achieved by selecting brake cylinders of suitable size and pressure, and by using additional valves in the compressed air brake assembly.

A better solution, however, is provided by axle assemblies with dynamic axle load compensation where the braking moments are compensated within the assembly either mechanically, hydraulically or pneumatically, so that each individual axle bears the same load.

The new VA construction differs fundamentally from conventional axle assemblies in that, since axle load displacement does not occur, compensation in the compound assembly is no longer necessary. In fact, compensation takes place in the axle itself, due to the combined action of pendulum bearings between the leaf springs and axle body, and pull rods elastically supported against the axle. Guide and brake reaction forces are absorbed by these pull rods, with the result that all forces which occur act vertically on the leaf spring.

Alexander Marcar and Co., Marcar House, Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RJ. 01-840 8201.

## Introducing the cast.

Metal casting techniques were introduced into Japan around 300 BC, and by 750 AD this technology made possible the casting of the 250 ton Great Buddha in Nara, Japan. When Kubota started in the casting business some 88 years ago, it was with the technology developed over many centuries. Over the years Kubota has refined and developed new and more efficient ways to cast, like our centrifugal cast steel for Cargo oil pipe that resists corrosion caused by crude oil and sea water.

Kubota also custom makes reformer tubes for many complex purposes. The advanced centrifugal casting method is also employed to make Suction roll shells for paper mills. The controllable

stainless steel pitch propellers on many ships are made by our revolutionary DPM process and we made a 30 metric ton one-piece pump case for a nuclear power plant. Kubota guarantees strict adherence to your specifications as well as the ASME code. Kubota's stringent quality control system assures you of quality products. For more information regarding Kubota castings write.



Please write: Kubota Ltd,  
London Office: 11-12 Hanover Street London W1R 9HF, UK.  
Phone: 01-628-6471 - 4 Telex: 35325 KUBO G  
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## HOME NEWS

## RED DEER BREEDING EXPERIMENT

## State turns Highland laird

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE STATE HAS turned Highland laird in a glen on the West Coast of Scotland to make an experiment which may have a significant effect on the economy of remote areas.

In March last year the Highlands and Islands Development Board bought the rundown Rahoy Estate on the Morvern Peninsula, Inverness-shire, as a site for the first attempt in Britain to farm red deer on a commercial scale.

The 3,500 acres of land round Loch Teacuis, much of it exposed hill covered with heather and bracken, cost £275,000. So far the board has spent £80,000 more renovating buildings, draining and re-seeding fields on the lower ground, putting up two-metre-high deer fences, and building a breeding stock.

Private landowners from all over Scotland, including the Royal Family from the Balmoral estate, have co-operated in supplying deer calves, which have to be caught on the hill and taken from their mothers within a few days of birth to be successfully domesticated.

The stags have come from the Hill Farming Research Organisation's experimental farm. It will be two years before the herd is up to its full strength, and before the first of the Rahoy-bred deer can be slaughtered.

The venture is a gamble. It has already been proved that red deer can be reared domestically, and there is strong evidence that they can make better use of poor land than sheep, hence the attraction for the Scottish Highlands, where large areas are unproductive.

But farmers and landowners remain sceptical. It has to be demonstrated that there is a market for venison in commercial quantities and that the high initial capital outlay can be recouped.

The Government as well as



Mr. Mike Alexander, farm manager feeding calves meal to the deer.

private landowners must be convinced on this last point, since deer farming is unlikely to be accepted unless it becomes eligible for similar grants to those for raising cattle or sheep.

To test the potential market the board is financing a study by Stirling University in West Germany, which takes most of the deer exported from Scotland.

Mr. Mike Alexander, a farm manager chosen from more than 60 applicants to run the project, believes it will be five years before firm conclusions can be reached.

"I would like to do it faster, but the deer will not let me. We just do not know what

problems are going to be raised in managing a herd 500-strong in farming conditions."

Mr. John Bryden, head of the land use department of the Highlands Board, is looking to other forms of income for the estate, to support the deer project. Under private ownership some cottages were let to holidaymakers, and under the board's control this side of the enterprise is being expanded.

The old schoolhouse and schoolroom have been converted to make attractive homes, and Rahoy House, the laird's residence, with lawns going down to the water's edge, is available for renting. Four cottages are to be built.

Fish farming on Loch Teacuis is also being considered. Before the board bought the estate its annual income was less than £18,000. By 1982 Mr. Bryden hopes it will have reached £80,000 at today's values.

He is adamant that Rahoy should not be seen as a model for the way in which the board would run estates if its controversial demands for powers of compulsory purchase were accepted by the Government.

Too much of what is happening at Rahoy is experimental, and costs may have to be written off.

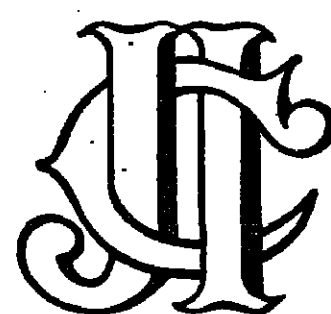
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(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

### Declaration of dividend and consolidated preliminary report

#### Dividend

DIVIDEND NO. 49 of 8 cents per share, South African currency, has been declared payable to members registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 13th October 1978.

The dividend is declared subject to conditions which can be inspected at or obtained from the company's Johannesburg office or from the office of the London Secretaries (Barnato Brothers Limited of 99 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XE). Subject to the said conditions, payments by the London Secretaries will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange quoted by the company's bankers on 30th October 1978; provided that in the event of the company's bankers being unable to quote such a rate of exchange on that day, then the currency of the Republic shall be converted at the rate of exchange quoted by the company's bankers on the next succeeding day on which such a rate is quoted.

Dividend warrants will be posted either from the Johannesburg office or the office of the London Secretaries as appropriate on 9th November 1978.

South African Non-Resident Shareholders' Tax at the rate of 15% and United Kingdom Income Tax will be deducted from the dividend where applicable.

The Share Transfer Books and Register of Members will be closed from 14th October 1978 to 22nd October 1978, both days inclusive.

#### Consolidated Preliminary Report

Provisional unaudited consolidated financial results for the year ended 31st August 1978:

1977	Year ended 31st August 1978	1978
R000		R000
	Net operating profit from sales of metal including dividends from the Matthey Rustenburg Refiners' group before provision for renewals and replacements	60,100
28,800	Deduct: Provision for renewals and replacements	17,200
16,000	Operating profit after provision for renewals and replacements	42,900
12,800	Deduct:	8,400
8,300	Provision for possible losses on foreign loans	2,500
3,200	Net interest paid	5,900
5,100	Profit before taxation	34,500
4,500	Deduct: Taxation and State's share of profits	8,700
(100)	Profit after taxation	25,800
4,600	Deduct: Dividends	9,900
3,100	Interim	9,900
3,100	Profit retained	15,900

#### Source and Application of Funds

	Year ended 31st August 1978
	R000
Source	
Profit after tax	25,800
Provision for possible losses on foreign loans	2,500
Provision for renewals and replacements	17,200
Decrease in investments in unlisted companies	1,100
Decrease in loan portion of normal tax	300
	46,900
Application	
Net assets of subsidiary at date of acquisition	2,200
Deduct: Issue of share capital and premium	2,200
	—
Dividend	9,900
Mining assets:	
For expansion	1,000
Renewals and replacements to maintain production capacity	15,200
Increase in working capital	20,800
	46,900

#### Increase (decrease) in working capital

Stocks of metals	(7,200)
Debtors	30,300
Cash	12,300
Acceptance credits raised	(5,800)
Dividend due to members	(9,900)
Creditors, taxation and sundry provisions	(15,000)
Current portion of multicurrency loans repaid	16,200
Increase in working capital	20,800

#### Profits

Improved market conditions during the current calendar year have resulted in substantially improved profits for the year ended 31st August 1978 compared with the previous financial year.

The negotiations that have been undertaken during the past year with a view to restoring the profitability of our sales to Engelhard Minerals & Chemicals for use by an automobile company have been successfully concluded. As a result the price of the platinum sold under this contract during the period April to October 1978 has been amended thereby increasing revenue for the year ended 31st August 1978 by R5.69 million.

#### Loans

During the year ended 31st August 1978 the group raised an additional \$6.7m (R5.8m) in acceptance credits and repaid \$18.7m (R16.2m) of its multicurrency loans.

#### Market

The past financial year saw a significant improvement in the platinum market. This arose as a result of:

- Demand from Japan being approximately 10% higher than in the previous financial year;
- a substantial increase from early 1978 in the requirements of the U.S. automobile industry;
- firmer U.S. industrial demand, particularly in the glass fibre industry; and
- a substantial reduction in supplies of platinum from Russia.

These factors together with the announcement of a cutback in production by Rustenburg in November 1977 had a significant impact on the price of platinum.

During the financial year the Free Market price of platinum increased from a level of \$150 per ounce in September 1977 to a peak of \$280 per ounce in August 1978. On the 29th September 1978, the Free Market price was in the range \$278-\$288 per ounce.

The company's total sales of platinum for the year were of the same order as for the financial year 1977. However as a result of progressive increases in the company's published price to the level of \$250 per ounce, mainly during the second half of the financial year, the weighted average price was 20% higher than that achieved in 1977. The price of the company's platinum has been increased to \$260 per ounce as from the beginning of October 1978.

The company's sales of both palladium and rhodium were higher in the 1978 financial year than in the preceding year. The increase in palladium sales was entirely due to a greater volume of sales for use by the U.S. automobile industry. Other industrial demand for palladium remained weak. However industrial demand for rhodium was strong.

During the year the company increased its published prices of both palladium and rhodium. The palladium price was increased from \$60 per ounce to \$65 per ounce and thereafter to the current price of \$70 per ounce in February 1978. The rhodium price was raised from \$450 per ounce to \$500 per ounce in January 1978. It was further increased to \$550 per ounce in September 1978.

Revenue from the company's sales of nickel was markedly below the level achieved in 1977 due to the lower nickel prices.

For and on behalf of the Board,

ALBERT ROBINSON,  
K. W. MAXWELL Directors

Head Office and Registered Office:  
Consolidated Building,  
Corner Fox and Harrison Streets,  
Johannesburg, 2001.  
P.O. Box 590, Johannesburg, 2000.  
2nd October 1978.

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its ability to shed light on distant news that may have local impact, or to detect national events that may have international implications. Knowing the news that needs knowing has made TIME the world's leading news magazine. TIME: the news magazine for the internationally minded.





# APPOINTMENTS

There will be no Jobs  
Column this week.  
Michael Dixon is ill.

## Shipping Management

PRICING AND  
CONFERENCE AFFAIRS

- THIS appointment is with the European arm of a major American shipping line.
- RESPONSIBILITY is for the formulation and maintenance of effective pricing policies designed to maximise the group's profits and improve its competitive position.
- A RECORD of successful achievement in a similar and senior appointment is essential.
- REMUNERATION is for discussion around £11,000. London base.

Write in complete confidence  
to Sir Peter Youens as adviser to the line.

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London: circa £7,000

Morgan Guaranty, a leading international corporate bank, is currently engaged in a major review of its computer systems covering all aspects of its activity and procedures.

To assist in this task, the bank requires an EDP Auditor to work within the Computer Auditing Group. Duties will include close liaison with operating departments and EDP personnel, responsibility for the development and audit of a number of new EDP systems together with the audit of production systems and computer installation.

Successful candidates will either have trained or gained post qualification experience with a leading accountancy practice or have substantial EDP project control/review experience. The ability to summarise, draw conclusions and present them to management is important.

Salary is up to £7,000 plus excellent fringe benefits, which include an annual bonus of 6%, rising to as high as 15% after two years' service, low interest mortgage facilities, currently 3%, non-contributory pension, life insurance and medical insurance plans and a season ticket loan.

Please write or telephone for an application form to Kathryn M. Foley, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, P.O. Box 161, 33 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BH. Telephone: 01-555 3111 ext. 2747.

**Morgan Guaranty**  
Trust Company of New York

## Editor, life insurance information and data

Major business information organisation based in London would welcome preliminary discussions with qualified persons interested in developing and editing an important technical service publication on long-term insurance at the international level.

The publication will cover all protective, investment, corporate, legal and financial aspects of life and allied assurance and re-assurance and will be addressed to insurance professionals, institutional and corporate managements and public authorities worldwide.

The appointment as editor, which will be full-time, is most likely to interest either insurance executives wishing to make a career in financial information; or business/financial journalists with good background in and contacts with the industry.

In either case an international outlook and proven ability to write technically sound reports or articles concisely and under pressure is essential.

## Assistant editor, life and property/liability insurance

To work on the above long-term insurance publication and on existing general insurance information service. Experience in financial journalism and knowledge of the insurance industry are important assets.

Competitive salaries, attractive benefits and excellent career prospects.

Those wishing to be considered for these assignments should write in confidence, outlining their professional experience and interests, to General Editor, Box A6500, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

## International Credit Management

c. £12,000

Our client, Klopman International, a European Division of Burlington Industries Inc., is currently seeking a credit manager to be responsible for credit and collection policies and procedures applicable throughout Western Europe. The credit manager will report to the top management of the division. The level of sales and receivables is such as to require the highest standards of professional management — and a sound knowledge of European trading practices and terms. The candidate will therefore have at least ten years' experience in credit management — of which

three to four will have been in International work, and will currently be occupying a fairly senior management position. As some travel will be required he or she should have knowledge of one or more European languages. Salary will be fully negotiable according to age and experience and will be accompanied by a realistic benefits package. Please reply initially to PA Advertising at the address below quoting reference S3733/FT. You should enclose comprehensive career details.

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The salary for this position is negotiable and there are excellent prospects for further advancement within the Group.

Applications, with curriculum vitae, in strictest confidence to The Chairman, Box A.8498, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

## Electronics Editor

Electronic Engineering this year celebrates its 50th Anniversary and, acknowledged as the Premier technical electronics publication in Europe, is seeking an Editor.

The Editor will lead an experienced editorial team which blends technical electronics knowledge with journalistic skills.

An essential part of the job will be liaison with the industry, reporting significant trends and developments in the technology, requiring a thorough understanding of electronics and an ability to communicate at all levels, from boardroom to research laboratory.

In addition to commissioning, evaluating and controlling contributions from electronics specialists around the world, the Editor will be expected to contribute to the development and

growth of the publication within a broad framework of policy.

An excellent salary and company car reflect the importance of this appointment. Life Assurance, Permanent Sickness Benefit, contributory Pension Scheme and modern purpose built offices are just some of the additional benefits.

The position is open to both men and women.

Contact Alan Elderfield, Publisher, on 01-855 7777.

Morgan-Grampian (Publishers) Ltd., 30 Calderwood Street, Woolwich, London SE18 6QH

## COMPANY NOTICES

### LYDENBURG PLATINUM LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

#### DIVIDEND DECLARATION

The estimated financial results of the company for the year ending 31st October 1978 are as follows:

	1978	1977
Net income before and after tax	R978,000	R408,000
Earnings per share	6.79c	2.33c
Dividends — per share — interim	—	1.75c
— final	6.80c	0.95c
— amount	R979,000	R350,000
Number of shares	14,400,000	14,400,000

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a final dividend of 48¢ of 50¢ per share has been declared payable to ordinary shareholders registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 13th October 1978.

No instructions involving a change of the office of payment will be accepted after 13th October 1978.

The register of members of the company will be closed from 14th October 1978 to 27th October 1978, both days inclusive.

Payments from the United Kingdom Office will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange ruling on 30th October 1978 or the first day thereafter on which a rate of exchange is obtainable.

Non-resident shareholders' tax of 15 per cent. will be deducted from dividends payable to shareholders whose registered addresses are outside the Republic of South Africa.

The full conditions of dividend may be inspected at or obtained from the head office or the offices of the transfer secretaries of the company.

#### GENERAL MINING AND FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

London Secretaries

per L. W. Humphreys

London Office

Francis House

25 Gresham Street

London EC2V 7EN

### SANYO ELECTRIC CO. LTD.

Curacao Depositary Receipts

of Ordinary Shares

For holders of the above-mentioned CDRs a limited number of copies of the semi-annual report for the six-month period ending May 31, 1978, of the said company are available at:

The Sunlight Bank, Limited

11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP;

Bank Mees & Hope NV, Peizerstrasse 2, Hamburg;

Bank de l'Union Europeenne, 4 Rue Caillon, Paris 10;

Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York

23 Wall Street, New York, NY 10013;

Bank Mees & Hope NV, Herengracht 548, Amsterdam.

22nd September 1978.

### REARDON SMITH LINE LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Book and Stock Register of the Company will be closed on 16th October, 1978, for that day only.

By Order of the Board

Devonshire Road, Cardiff.

Cardiff.

### TELIN LTD.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF BEARER

DEFERRED RECEIPTS (DRs)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the

general meeting of shareholders held in

London on 28th June, 1978, has resolved

to pay a dividend of 85¢ to be paid

wholly in the form of the Company's

shareholders on record in the register

of shareholders of the company as at

March 31, 1978.

After deduction of the Japanese With-

holding Tax of 15%, paid by selling the

DRs, the net rate of new B.D.R. is 72.25¢

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## CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

with a few years' post-qualification experience to join them on a permanent basis. Knowledge of the German language is desirable. An essential requirement is practical experience in Anglo-Saxon audit techniques and reporting requirements which should have included internal control analysis and the audit of EDP systems. Detailed application, including a curriculum vitae and present salary should be made to:

**Susat & Partner**  
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## STOCKBROKERS

An opportunity exists for a keen young person to join a successful team specialising in Private Clients. The candidate should be up to the standard required by the Stock Exchange Examinations and must be able to work without constant supervision.

Write fully to Box A.6495, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

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Responsibilities also include transportation arrangements for international cargo movements and assist in system requirements. Office will be located in prestigious area of London, and will maintain close liaison with New York and other international offices of Company.

Position requirements include a relevant university degree (or equivalent) and a minimum of five years' relevant experience in the oil industry. Salary range is £17,000 to £20,000 per annum, negotiable, depending upon background and experience. Competitive benefits package available.

For immediate consideration, please submit current resume in complete confidence to:

BOX A6495  
FINANCIAL TIMES  
10 CANNON STREET  
EC4P 4BY

## FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Expanding manufacturing company, sales presently £2m, offers position of

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR at c. £12,000 p.a. with car. To control one

accountant and efficient staff and report to Chairman. South Hampshire. Comprehensive c.v. to

Box A.6481, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

THE PERFECT VACANCY may not exist, but we will do our utmost to find it for you. Professional, Commercial and Industrial vacancies from 1990 to Board level. Telephone 01-235 8111. 100 GROUP, Financial & Accountancy Division, 6, Lloyd's Avenue, London, E.C.4.

## EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

required by

LEADING MONTHLY ECONOMIC JOURNAL

Ability to write clearly and handle figures.

Only those with a good second-class honours degree, or better, need apply.

Write with full particulars to  
Box A.6488, Financial Times,  
10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

## LEADING INSURANCE BROKING GROUP

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Applicants should have had selling experience (including life and pensions) with an Insurance Broker or Company and be confident of creating New Business opportunities with large industrial companies and carrying out discussions at Senior Director level. Vacancies in London and Bristol. Attractive salary with car provided and usual fringe benefits. Applicants, preferably under age 35, should apply, giving age, full career particulars and main qualifications for position offered, to Box A.6496, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

## COMMERCIAL CREDITS/CLERKS 2

c.£4,500 - p.a. 1978, required of leading international Bankers. Must have Letters of Credit Documentary - Guarantee experience. Excellent mortgage facilities and perks. Ring 01-283 6022 for appointment VPM EMPLOYMENT (AGY)

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

### D. J. FREEMAN & CO.

Solicitors

#### TAX DEPARTMENT

Lawyer required to join solicitors' rapidly expanding department dealing with substantial work in the field of personal and corporate taxation. The successful applicant will have drive, flexibility and be able to cope with sophisticated and complex work. Commencing salary £10,000-£15,000. Outstanding career prospects.

Apply Ref: PK 01-636-4055

9 Cavendish Square, London W1M 9DD

## MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

c.£6,000

Bright, go-ahead personality? Join this leading multinational cosmetics group and use your qualifications in their dynamic European Financial Control Division. Close involvement with international promotional campaign and product control. Good fringe benefits and excellent prospects. Contact Peter Lloyd on 01-873 8055.

Churchill Personnel Consultants

## LEGAL NOTICES

No. 1001 of 1978

In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division Companies Court, in the Matter of ESQUATU LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 25th day of September 1978 presented to the said Court by IRLINE ROSE JONES of 8, Hildon Road, Gardens, Bromley, Kent, a Creditor of the above-named Company (Borrower Machine Operator), and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on the 26th day of October 1978, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by his counsel, for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requesting such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

WOUND & SONS,

14, High Street,

Bromley, Kent, SE10 1DT.

Ref: EAH Tel: 01-853 2262.

Solicitors for the Petitioner.

NOTE - Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must give up or send by post to the above-named solicitor in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be served by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if served, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named solicitor not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th day of October 1978.

## BOND DRAWINGS

### CORRECTED NOTICE

MORTGAGE

BANK OF FINLAND OY



## The Management Page

## A Wall Street baron steps down

John Wyles on how William Salomon built his challenge to the Thundering Herd

WILLIAM SALOMON is a nice man, everyone agrees. His name is a byword for integrity and common sense. It is also conceded that he has no great personal charisma nor genius for the activity in which he has made his name and fortune, the securities business. Yet within Salomon Brothers it is acknowledged with some awe that Billy Salomon's leadership has been a central factor in the company's phenomenal growth over the past 15 years. With Salomon at the helm the firm has been transformed from a Wall Street trader with a modest capital of \$15.4m into a major force within the U.S. and international securities industry whose \$200m capital exceeded in the U.S. only by the giant Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner and Smith.

Thus William Salomon's retirement last Sunday at the age of 64 from his post as managing partner is an event of some significance on Wall Street. He is handing over to John Gutfreund, 48, whom he personally recruited in 1953, the largest private partnership in the U.S. securities industry, whose management is a complex mix of disciplined informality, creative improvisation and shrewd man-management. Like many other Wall Street brokerage houses, it pays lip service to management concepts of structure and formal lines of responsibility but really hopes that they will never be fully implemented. Salomon is first and foremost interested in securities expertise.

## Arbiter

Employ professional managers? God no. By the time we have taught them the business they will have changed, he says. His inclinations have given the firm somewhat different priorities. Edgar Aronson, one of the 49 general partners, says Salomon's greatest contribution has been as "A people picker

and final arbiter of disputes." Elaborating the point, Gutfreund says that Salomon took a nice, quality, institutional bond house and by allowing a number of young people to try new things... he helped us grow into the largest partnership in the industry.

Some outsiders have developed a quite mystical reverence for Salomon Brothers because of its enormous trading strength in an impressive range of securities, from equities to corporate debt, to more recently, Eurobonds and Euro-dollar instruments. Since the capital of \$15.4m into a major force within the U.S. and international securities industry whose \$200m capital exceeded in the U.S. only by the giant Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner and Smith.

Salomon's flexibility and speed of decision often takes its clients aback but this has been a remarkably important factor in its growth. Its facility owes much to the informal procedures established by William Salomon.

During the 15 years in which he has been managing partner he has run the business from the trading floor, which since 1971 has been located in a vast open space room at number One, New York Plaza which the firm boasts is the largest trading room on Wall Street. Decisions are taken by a small executive committee of the general partners, which meet several times a day for a few minutes at a time.

Outsiders are often greatly intrigued by how the company manages to control the risks has been as "A people picker

trading positions it often takes. Weeks of close observation in the markets is now such that would be needed to gain some real understanding, but the system apparently functions on the basis of exhorting traders and salesmen to achieve the maximum possible turnover of inventory. Gutfreund says that the firm does not commit precise amounts of capital to each trading department, but trading positions and "risk factors" are assessed daily. "Yes, we'll take big risks, but that is why the capital is there," says William Salomon.

Balancing risks against capital is one thing, but turning it to the firm's financial advantage is quite another. Huge trading turnover — Salomon bought and sold \$490bn of securities last year — is the most obvious key to the company's success, for it is often working to very small profit margins and is as dependent as is, say, Sears Roebuck, on maintaining and expanding trading volume.

Despite a determined development of corporate finance and international securities activities, Salomon is not markedly less susceptible to the economic and market cycles than the other large Wall Street houses, as the accompanying profit and loss table shows.

PARTNERS PROFITS (LOSSES) BEFORE TAXES	
	Revenues (\$m)
1968	13.3
1969	10.7
1970	21
1971	54.9
1972	37
1973	(6.6)
1974	22
1975	42.3
1976	70
1977	55

THE PROBLEMS of the Social Security system in the United States and the relationship of the system to the nation's massive private pension industry has stimulated new concerns in Congress, the business community, and the working population.

When Federally-sponsored Social Security was established just over 40 years ago, it materially filled a critical need for millions of Americans who, prior to that time, could look forward to retirement with little more than the dreaded prospect of charity.

In 1972, the system, which has been self-financing through equal contributions by employers and employees, took a particularly significant step when the Social Security amendments provided for progressively higher dollar benefits, linked to inflation.

As a result, many individuals would eventually have received more in benefits than they earned while working.

The problem was aggravated by higher than anticipated inflation and unemployment. Simply put, the system was on the road to going broke in a few years without a heavy infusion of money.

Last year, further Social Security amendments sought the needed funds through a drastic increase in the maximum taxable wage of American workers. It will jump from the 1973 level of \$17,700 to \$29,700 in 1981 and also require the employer and the employee to contribute a new high of 6.65 per cent each up to the taxable maximum. Representative W. A. Steiger of Wisconsin views these increases as a "ticking time bomb."

Representative Al Ullman of Oregon would prefer the

However, Salomon's potency in the markets is now such that in the first six months of this year it elbowed aside Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch White Weld to capture the top spot as the leading domestic underwriter of all categories of securities, according to the table compiled by the magazine Institutional Investor.

The company's international standing is only slightly less dominant. Last year Salomon ranked first among U.S. firms in the underwriting of international issues in various currencies, and fifth in the world. Salomon ranked first among U.S. firms in the international dollar market, first in foreign securities offered in the U.S. and second in the Euromarket, the Eurodollar market, and the EuroCanadian dollar market.

## Authoritarian

All of which is a far cry from the bond trading house of Salomon Brothers and Hutzler which William Salomon joined straight from school in 1933. Son of Percy Salomon, one of the three founding partners, his progress was governed partly by conservative attitudes, strongly shared, he says, by his father, which had prevailed since the firm's creation in 1910. Though a Salomon, he waited 11 years for a partnership, because "you could not be considered for a partnership unless you belonged to the 10-year club."

His speciality was selling securities, and he had little influence over the general direction of the firm, which by the early 1950s had fallen under

the increasingly authoritarian control of Rudolf Smutny, a partner since 1927.

Several partners, including, it can be assumed, William Salomon, had found Smutny's leadership increasingly objectionable and in 1957 things came to a head with what Salomon calls a "palace revolt." In that year the firm lost heavily on foreign securities and some stocks that Smutny had moved to buy, and the debacle was sufficient to prompt Salomon to lead a group of partners in organising a general vote to demand Smutny's resignation. In 1958 William Salomon joined the administrative committee and in 1963 became the first managing partner and senior member of what had been renamed the executive committee.

The Smutny affair was clearly a decisive experience for William Salomon. "I could see that if we had another bad year we would be out of business," he says, recalling the anxiety of watching the firm's net worth dwindle in one year from \$10m to \$7m. "For the next few years we all lived extremely conservatively, and every nickel we saved we kept in the business."

His constant preoccupation with building capital, or more properly net worth, because Salomon is a partnership, appears to owe a great deal to the experience of 1957. As a result, the firm's policy has evolved which imposes both very strict limitations on the withdrawal of capital, and also a system of current rewards which is unusually frugal for Wall Street. At the end of last month the 49 general partners had

around \$151m in the firm (balancing capital is \$58.1m of subordinated debentures) and any partner who leaves before retiring at 65 is pinned to a 10 years withdrawal period, which is reduced to five years in the case of normal retirement.

All partners' salaries are said to be less than six figures but this is supplemented by annual payments of 5 per cent interest on individual capital and by the fact that individual income taxes are paid out of capital. The agreement has guaranteed the flow of vital capital necessary not only to build up Salomon's eminent trading and underwriting position, but also to take the firm in new directions. Gutfreund has played a central role in developing its investment banking and one of his challenges at the head of



Mr. W. R. Salomon the managing partner (left) and Mr. J. H. Gutfreund the senior partner of Salomon Brothers

the firm will be to nurture its international activities, based competence and the capital, but they may have to buy the three-piece suits.

However, Salomon has lived a long time with its brash arriviste image and there is little discernible regret at No. 1 New York Plaza about a lack of lineage.

In Gutfreund it has a new managing partner greatly different in style from his predecessor. More hearty, more outgoing he allowed William Salomon to persuade him to come to Wall Street because "I knew I was not a great actor, poet, dramatist, or teacher... he offered me a job which required no more than some knowledge of arithmetic and common sense." But there can be little doubt that he has developed many other talents along the years.

Louis Kleber on the problems created by new legislation

## The great U.S. pensions row

adoption of a value-added tax to help keep the Social Security system afloat — an abandonment of the historic self-financing approach.

Other would-be solutions include funding from general taxation revenue, but this approach has met opposition since it could open the door to inordinate and inflationary increases in benefits — and cost. Additionally, the general revenue approach carries with it the aura of a welfare scheme rather than a participatory programme to which the worker has contributed.

Despite the misgivings, President Carter predicted that the new Social Security legislation would assure the soundness of the system for the next half-century. But who, in 1910, could have accurately assessed the social welfare realities of 1960?

So what now? Some quarters have even suggested a scrapping of individual, employer sponsored pension schemes in favour of expanded Social Security pensions.

The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph Califano, Jr., stirred up a storm in a recent speech: "Are we comfortable with a system in which some retirees pile up the maximum Social Security benefits on top of generous pensions, while other retirees have no pension income and find Social Security barely enough to get by on?"

Looking at the future, he asked if it would make more sense to recoup the tax benefits employers get for their contributions to qualified private pension plans and apply them to more generous and widespread Social Security.

Understandably, Mr. things, the proposed Act

Califano's comments drew some sharp and pertinent replies. Defenders of the private pension system quickly pointed out that in addition to its basic role of providing retirement income, it is the basis of enormous investment and growth capital that stimulates industry and the economy, thus contributing to a rising standard of living.

Refuting Mr. Califano's observations, the influential publication, *Pensions and Investments*, said it would be foolish to replace economically productive private pensions with a complex, largely unfunded and economically unproductive system, subject to political whims, which even now cannot be amended without long, acrimonious debate. Significantly, Dr. Robert J. Myers, who was Chief Actuary for the Social Security Administration for more than twenty years, said he believes strongly in "both Social Security and private pensions as desirably complementing each other."

The Social Security debate cannot be divorced from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) which was intended to strengthen the viability of private pensions. But along with its progressive and much-needed provisions, it created new headaches, particularly for small employers who have had to face complex and costly burdens in establishing new plans as well as maintaining those already in existence. In an effort to streamline the Act and remove some of its onerous requirements, Senators Williams of New Jersey and Javits of New York have introduced to ERISA Improvements Act of 1978. Among other

would provide special tax incentives for small employers, allow tax-deductibility for employee contributions and cut down burdensome paper work. It would, said Senator Javits, make ERISA "easier to live with."

It seems, however, that as a simplification takes place, new wrinkles enter the scene. The 1978 Age Discrimination in Employment Act amendments have raised the permissible mandatory retirement age from 65 to 70 for most employees in the private sector. The amendments do not mention ERISA, but obvious problems are created since most U.S. plans take age 65 as the normal retirement.

Then there is the matter of the highly controversial "Daniel's case," which is now before the Supreme Court. It hinges on the contention that a pension plan is a security, a view supported by the Securities Exchange Commission but opposed by the Department of Labor.

If the SEC view carries the day, a new set of compliance regulations and another powerful Federal agency would be added to the pension scene.

There are also potentially great financial ramifications, since the SEC view holds that a pension-security is essentially "sole" to the employee. "Mr. Daniel sued the International Brotherhood of Teamsters because he had had a short break in service during 20 years of employment. He claimed that misleading statements and failure to disclose material facts subjected the Teamsters to the anti-fraud provisions of the Federal Securities Acts of 1933 and 1934. If Daniel's case is upheld,

there may be numerous similar claims on employers and trustees of pension funds. The dollar as securities.

To sum up, there is little likelihood that there will be any fundamental change in the foreseeable future to the dual private-government approach to meeting retirement income needs. Nor is it likely that any legislative action will be the pension soup. Senators Javits and Williams have introduced administration for employers."

## Business courses

Organisation and Management of R & D, Brunel University, London Press Centre, November Middlesex, November 13-16. Fee: £175. Details from Management Programme, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex. Materials Management and Inventory Control in the Food and Drink Industries, APL Plus, London, October 26-27. Fee: £175 plus VAT. Details from APL Plus, 50-52 Chancery Lane, London WC2.

Effective Insurance Buying, London Press Centre, November 16. Fee: £81.00. Details from the Conference Co-ordinator, Risk Research Group (London), Bridge House, 181 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4.

Improving Questioning and Interrogation Techniques, London, November 2-3. Fee: £120 plus VAT. Details from ASM, 565 Fulham Road, London, SW6.

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St. George's,  
Hanover Square

## Messiah

by NICHOLAS KENYON

There are only 83 Messiah days to Christmas, and it was wise of Roger Norrington to launch his new version on Sunday night at the beginning of this regular (though unjustifiable—Messiah is an Easter-time piece) season. For his was no ordinary Messiah: the novelty of its sounds and the originality of its answers to the oratorio's countless problems will remain in the mind and ear, I suspect, through many future performances under more conventional conductors.

Small-scale Messiahs are nothing new, but this was the first to use an orchestra of baroque instruments, and to omit featured soloists, relying instead on singers from the 16-voice choir. The playing was an unqualified success. Rarely have I heard baroque orchestra string playing so unassuming and yet so highly characterised: the other instruments were also better than usual. The choir, too, was excellent, and the soloists were of a calibre to handle the parts with force, candour and persuasion. The players into effects they might not have attempted conductorless. Quavers swept together into real phrases, instead of being merely decorative (most impressively in the big chorale); strings shivering with alyssa precision in "Why do the nations rage"; and a well-timed re-entrant of four notes and three bassoons adding their perky sounds to Handel's distinctive blanded chorales.

Vocal Norrington's solutions were highly questionable. An admirably detailed essay in the programme by Anthony Hicks told us that the Founding Hospital performance used the male five-part choir of 18, plus five soloists who performed ably joined in the choruses. Norrington used this to justify his practices (already featured in several Schütz Choir miniaturisations) of using all his chorists as soloists in turn. But the point about Handel's own Messiah performances is that the soloists were famous, dramatic, skilled, and drawn from the opera house. Schütz Choir members, with a couple of exceptions are not, and almost all the solo parts were correspondingly undercharacterised.

On the other hand, neither did the singers make an ideal chorus. The blended reasonably well, and it is to be expected that Norrington's relatively unconventional notions with efficiency and skill were strength and purpose (rather than the usual relaxed sentimentality) in their "peal on earth" and "the kingdom of our God," and real detachment in the black chorale "Worthy is the Lamb." But for the rest, the child is lost. But I longed alternately for the pure homogeneity of a boys-and-men choir, or the real light of a slightly larger body. Did Norrington consider a performance with, say, Christ Church Choir and Kent Opera soloists? Nevertheless, a most hardworking evening, well (if slightly) planned, thoroughly prepared, and endlessly stimulating.

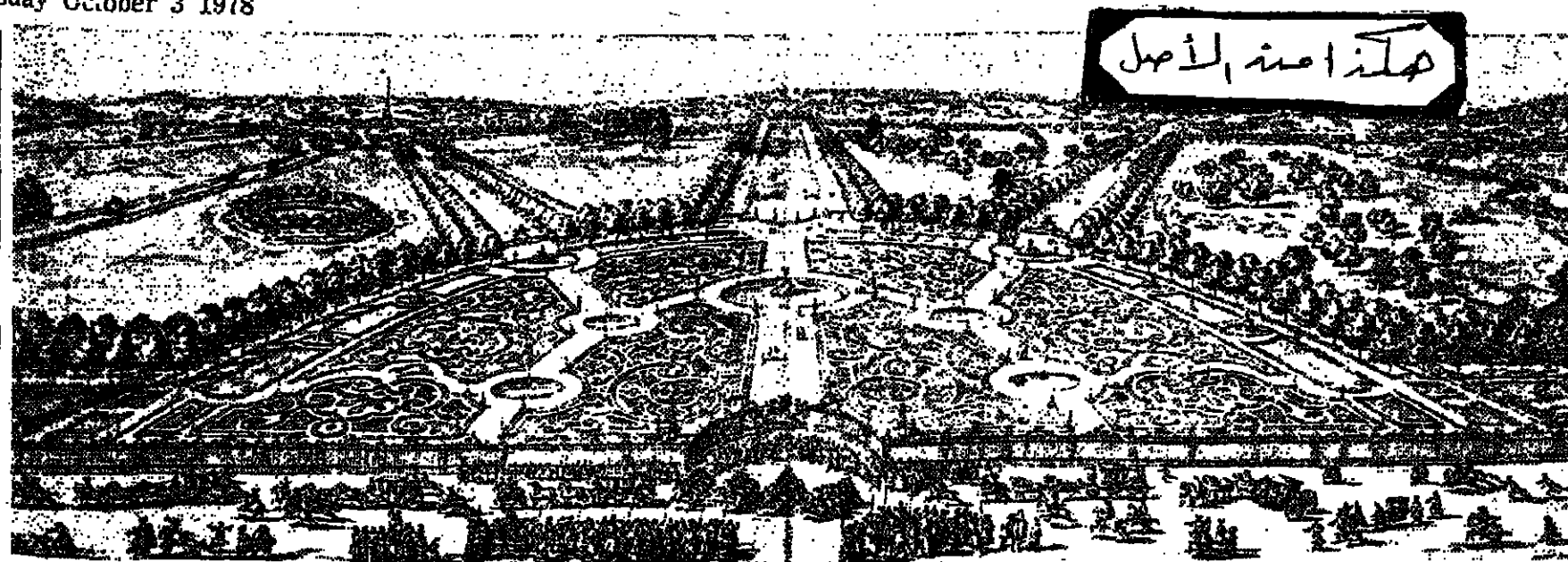
Covent Garden

## Das Rheingold

The later parts of the second Ring cycle have cashed out, but there were none of last night's Rheingold — which leaves only dribs and drabs to be said. Colin Davis was remarkably successful in forecasting the veep and scope of the whole tetralogy while keeping the sue of this Rheingold within preludeal bounds. Rheingold is "early" in two ways — in the context of Wagner's work as a whole, and as part of the Ring, the writing and composition to up so much of his career. Son of the music (Freia's, special) has a kind of freshness which was not to reappear, and this aspect of the score was finely realised.

With a set like Symbold, for the Friedrich production, it is presumably inevitable that the first two parts will be given on consecutive evenings. Yet inevitably entails a certain amount of holding-back for Wulfrun for the singers. One felt this last night (th Donald McIntyre's Wotan (th with Josephine eVasey's Freia. He, as usual, had some forceful phrases (how well he sheds anger and frustration) and some expressive ones after the disappearance of Freia and golden apples, yet neither you have given any one hearing that first time much idea of their full Wagnerian potential. There is something to be said for the old solution of changing the singers of the big roles thus recur.

RONALD CRICHTON



Daniel Marot's initial design for the gardens of Hampton Court Palace.

## Re-discovering English gardens

by Dr. ROY STRONG

During the summer we went to Westbury-upon-Severn to see one of the National Trust's most imaginative ventures, the restoration and re-creation of the formal gardens laid out by a lesser country gentleman, Maynard Cotchester, at the close of the 17th century. Alas, the manor house has been swept away, but the garden, which is in the style of Dutch William, with its long rectangular canal, its stately walks, and its patterned flower beds, have all been put back. The canal has been put back, the garden, which is in the style of Dutch William, with its long rectangular canal, its stately walks, and its patterned flower beds, have all been put back.

Ham House is the scene of a second such imaginative project by the Trust, the restoration of the gardens of the house as we know them to have been in their heyday, when the Duke and Duchess of Lauderdale transformed Ham into the epitome of Restoration opulence. As in the case of the restoration of a historic building, that of the gardens raises as many problems. What should be put back and what not. Every case has to be argued on its merits and on the availability of evidence (and money).

In the case of Ham, for instance, the garden which preceded that of the Lauderdale's, that of Sir Thomas Vavasour, was certainly far more important. But garden history and archaeology are in their infancy. Most people probably have not even begun to think of a garden in these terms but they should. We still have no list of gardens in this country and as research is still barely beyond the exploratory stages, such lists could never arise anyway above the rudimentary. Dr Lindström of the University of York has just supervised work

on investigating a single riding of Yorkshire which alone threw up some 2,000 gardens of significance.

Next year is the Year of the Garden, a fact to be commemorated throughout the country under the leadership of the English Tourist Board and in a spectacular exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, called "How Did Your Garden Grow? A celebration of a thousand years of British garden-land." From this there ought to emerge an increasing awareness of our garden heritage, far too often taken for granted. Out of it, too, should arise the possibilities of restoration and re-creation. Thanks to that monster Capability Brown and his followers, England alone in Europe suffered the wanton destruction of two hundred years of its garden history swept away to be replaced by lawns, hills, irregular lakes and clumps of trees. We have an embarras de richesses of landscape gardens. What we now need carefully to consider is how to restore and

re-create those of the missing Isaac de Caus for the Earl of Pembroke. Although it would pose the problem of moving the famous palladian bridge across the Nadder, there is enough surviving even above ground in the way of pieces from the fountains, the grotto to rebuild the garden. More even than Wilton, one thinks of Hampton Court. Leaving aside what needs to happen to the interior, the garden and park still retain the basic shape of their heyday under William III—the Privy Garden, with its screens by Tjijou, elements of the Wilderness and the great garden facing Wren's facade with its *pâte d'oe*, the avenues and canal which stretch over the parkland beyond. Here more than anywhere, we have the chance to put back a clock and replant the greatest of all baroque gardens of the late Stuart age.

Screams of anguish would doubtless attend the demolition of the ancient overgrown yews but in 20 years time we would be strolling by clipped yew obelisks, admiring the fountains and statuary as it arose from the re-created embroidered parterres with their patterns of scroll-work in box. How beautiful it would be and what an enhancement to Wren's architecture conceived in match such a planting. How extraordinary, too, to be able to look down from the state-rooms on the piano nobile, as one was meant to do, on to the rococo, baroque or, even, Manierist gardens. So no one has been brave enough to tackle the creation on the scale being undertaken at William III's palace of Het Loo in Holland. Not only is the palace interior being restored to splendour but the earth is being skinned, uncovering the fountain basins, steps and paths of the great baroque garden which is also to be put back to its great days.

Who knows but that beneath the lawns of Wilton and in the nearby hillside there still lies much of the ground structure of the most famous of all pre-Civil War gardens, that created by the blight of Capability Brown

the existence of the old lake beneath the irregularities of the landscaped surface raises the whole question of garden archaeology and reconstruction. Until now we have been piecemeal about this. But up and down the country beneath the top soil lies our inheritance of the rococo, baroque or, even, Manierist gardens. So no one has been brave enough to tackle the creation on the scale being undertaken at William III's palace of Het Loo in Holland.

Not only is the palace interior being restored to splendour but the earth is being skinned, uncovering the fountain basins, steps and paths of the great baroque garden which is also to be put back to its great days.

Who knows but that beneath the lawns of Wilton and in the nearby hillside there still lies much of the ground structure of the most famous of all pre-Civil War gardens, that created by the blight of Capability Brown

Elizabeth Hall

## John Bingham

by DAVID MURRAY

John Bingham's recital on Sunday afternoon was technically expert, musically thoughtful—and curiously, consistently muted. The *una corda* pedal on his piano seemed to be down as often as it was up; the initial impression of considerable strength held in check waned as it became evident that it was not going to be released. From the ninth row, I wondered whether his fleet account of Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, with a minuscule dynamic range, could really be penetrating to the back of the hall.

He set about Beethoven's so-called "Eroica" Variations and Fugue, op. 35, as if determined to remind us that the nickname derives merely from the later Symphony which uses some of the same material: it was not an heroic performance at all, but a gentle, deeply introspective one, with weighty pauses for reflection in the second half of every variation. A true singing line nothing it all, and there was sustained limp about the rhythm—Bingham has not only a strong left hand, but a mastery of musical pulse which kept the

work alive through all its length. The Fugue was again unwisely ruminative, but lucid and quietly purposeful: a performance of surprising rewards. Tonal discretion almost silenced valour in Chopin's op. 10 book of Etudes. They became virtually a set of intricate miniatures, which cannot be right. Once more Bingham's musicianship was everywhere apparent, but in receding hues. The essentially lyrical studies did not suffer, and indeed some few of the others enjoyed a sharper attack—the violent fourth study, for one, and the tenth (charmingly light and brittle here); but there was a besetting want of breadth. The pianist's fluent right hand—too reluctant to articulate Chopin's figurative energy—was regularly overpowered by his left, to the point where I began to wonder whether his instrument simply had a dull upper register. The general effect was of shapely melodies set against indistinct washes of semiquavers; there is far more to the Etudes than that, and it should be heard.

Festival Hall/Radio 3

## Ivan the Terrible

by MAX LOPPERT

For the oratorio that Abram Stasevich created out of Prokofiev's music for the Eisenstein film *Ivan the Terrible*, Riccardo Muti is a passionate and energetic advocate. The performance he gave on Sunday night with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus painted the oratorio's colours onto bright banners of sound—such things as Prokofiev's employment of high clarinet, sawing double basses, stockpiling and celesta in unison, and great growling tubas, made a particularly large and stirring effect.

The chorus was disciplined, steady, and secure in whatever it did (the mixture of speech and simultaneous song in the penultimate chorus was especially well managed). Perhaps the tone colour was less vibrant than an equivalent Russian choir might achieve—though, probably, with very little of the careful intonation and smooth ensemble in which this chorus is so strong. Boris Morzunov delivered the narrations with much of the high-styled, rhetorical majesty of Eisenstein's actors; even without understanding the Russian words, I found him purposeful.

vident, forceful, and moving. The baritone, Anatoly Mokrenko, was dashing in Fyodor's song—a pity there was so little for him to do. Julia Hamari's contralto was a touch light for her music. Generally, the performance was brilliant and glowing. But the work itself does not fully repay such enthusiasm. While the colours in which it is painted are bright, the strokes are broad, sometimes crude, often short-lived in inspiration—there is very little in *Ivan the Terrible* to equal the memorable simplicity, the broad tunefulness of, say, the contralto lament in Alexander Nevsky. Perhaps there is one melody that has something of that quality—first heard orchestraly then in an unaccompanied chorus; but the same melody recurs, in far more definitive form, in Kuznetsov's aria in *War and Peace*. The programme failed to make a concert work of his *Ivan the Terrible* music, after the success of Alexander Nevsky. Perhaps the composer himself recognised that the material even without understanding the Russian words, I found him purposeful.

## The Transfiguration of Benno Blimpie

You do not see little fat Benno in the squalid scenes of his family life. His tough father takes time off to upbraid him for being fat and soft and solitary, and his shrewish Neapolitan mother tries to stop him eating so much as she bemoans her miserable lot. His grand-father shoos him away, so that he can pursue his attempts to rape a nymphomaniac school-girl, attempts that end with his murder and the theft of his month's security cheque. But Benno is not there.

He is lying in the middle of the stage in white overalls, as fat as the Michelin man, and his first words, like his last, are "I am eating myself to death." As he does so, he fills in the spaces in the family pattern that are not shown in the other scenes. Though he is the butt of everyone's contempt and ill-humour, he has in fact been endowed by God (the family are practising Catholics) with an instinctive appreciation of fine paintings, perhaps even a talent for it. This interests no one but himself. The world thinks he should be playing ball games of various kinds.

And this is the theme of Albert Innaurato's moving little play. It is not a new theme, the difficulty of sustaining an artistic leaning in a philistine world, but Mr. Innaurato's treatment of it is novel and persuasive. Poor Benno, to whom Robbie Coltrane gives more feeling than you would think likely as he lies there like a fat crystal, decides that the one talent he has made public, the talent for eating too much, must provide him with his death-sentence; you see him literally beginning to eat himself, having first been marked out into joints and provided with a meat cleaver.

The use of the analogy is what distinguishes the poetic young American writers from the political young British ones; and



Robbie Coltrane with Lynda Marchal and Vincent Marzello

in spite of the unlikely nature of some of the action and the coarseness of the family's language, poetic is what this play certainly is. Mostly so in Benno's dialogue, where we are free from the sordid realm of reality and move freely in the territory of the mind. The play is admirably per-

formed by a well-cast company under the direction of Simon Stokes. Vincent Marzello and Lynda Marchal play the father and mother, Michael Ponto is the creep, old grandfather, Madeline Church the 13-year-old. The designs—four contrasted areas lying side by side—are by Gemma Jackson. B.A. YOUNG

Festival Hall

## Khachaturian

by DAVID MURRAY

The death of Aram Khachaturian last May seems to have lent new interest to Armenian music, and last night the Institute of Armenian Music presented a memorial concert for him. The concert, conducted by the London Symphony in the very early First Symphony, the familiar Violin Concerto and some of the innumerable dances from *Gaganeh* (omitting, with admirable restraint, the *Sabre Dance*). To open the music Tjck Dancet brought pressing energy and a precise beat; in the nature of the case most of the concert had to be extremely loud, though we had the revised version of the Symphony with a quiet ending to the first movement, and Tjcknavorian made a generous cut in the frenzied *Gaganeh* Lezhinka.

There was doubtless a felt need for a concerto appeal of a combine the direct with a good deal of fierce delicate bowing on the G-string, and Khachaturian it was interesting to learn from the programme that the second subject is "imbued with that spirit of melodic contour, modal inflexion and rhythmic shape typical of Armenian folksong." I had always supposed it came straight from Grieg. Ruggiero Ricci attacked the work with the proper gutty ferocity, and a capoling way with the high-register keening too. Apparently the melodies of the slow movement "look to the example of the *ashugs*," though the prove-ment of the climactic motif might seem to be the finale of *Adama Butterfly*. It would be pure fantasy to detect "Rustles of Spring" in the main Allegro of Spring, and in any case the upward tune and in any case the composer throws so many other things into the pot that it would

be inept to seek for one single inspiration for the music. Khachaturian remarked: "The most important thing in a composer is his personality; his aura"; and certainly his own manner is as identifiable as, say, Mantovani's. It was interesting to hear the elements of the manner being tentatively assembled in the First Symphony, his own, besides Ricci's panache, graduation exercise, and more was the ethnic warbling of Roy Jowitz's clarinet behind him, first movement is indeed artful, exotic and exuberantly wild.

Purcell Room

## de Saram/Young

Rohan de Saram and Douglas Young began their Sunday recital phrases in stamping rhythms, rousing with Bartok's cello and piano version of his First less whistling from the strings. Rhapsody. Mr. de Saram's throaty, virile tone is ideal for this Magyar excursion, and with his lithic ability in the Friss one had to admit that the violin of Bartok's original has no prior claim on the music. Mr. Young rightly attacked the piano part with uninhibited fervour, as he did too in Sibelius's bizarrely obsessive *Molinsin* (from 1902, the time of the Second Symphony). Both players adopted a soaver manner for a recently unearthed "Romance" by Delius, without sacrificing their engagingly personal style. They make an exciting and adventurous team.

DAVID MURRAY

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Tuesday October 3 1978

## Without a mandate

THE KNOW-NOTHING votes at the Labour conference on unions are now presenting, incomes policy and economic strategy are not altogether surprising; it is not the first or the last time that the leader of a party in office has been embarrassed by the impatience and blind prejudice of his supporters. Mr. Callaghan may well feel that there is no need to take any notice of what Mr. Sidney Weighell, of the National Union of Railwaymen, called "a mere emotional spasm—a vote for the philosophy of the pig trough." Nor need he take much notice of the arguments of delegates whose minds are so clogged with ancient slogans that they can no longer see the real world, and have their arguments on "the profits of property speculation," many of whom are now bankrupt, or refuse to acknowledge the sharpest recovery in real wages for more than a decade. This was a contemptible debate.

## Difficult stage

However, on this occasion solidifying on is not enough. An immovable policy cannot be justified by the irresistible prejudice of its opponents, and obstinacy is a poor substitute for authority. Although he has been likened to Moses, Mr. Callaghan does not claim that his policies are divinely inspired, nor are they graven in stone. Democratic government is in the last resort government by consent; and unless the Prime Minister can contrive a policy which has at least the grudging consent of those affected, there seems little reason why Parliament should in November renew his authority to carry on by sheer willpower.

That consent must somehow be wrung from the TUC. Mr. Callaghan and his Ministers now stand beyond retreat for the doctrine that their brand of Socialism includes some planning of the growth of incomes; but this need not mean a rigid single-figure norm. The norm is there, as Mr. Weighell pointed out, because the TUC refused to accept any responsibility for orderly bargaining.

That whole approach has now been formally rejected both by the TUC and by the conference; but by yesterday evening, some of the Government's most outspoken opponents seemed appalled by the consequences of their own victory. If the TUC is half as flexible as it is asking the Prime Minister to be, some compromise, which would allow for the adjustment of differentials without extravagating the destructively extra-

giant wage claims which some of the unions are now presenting, ought to be possible.

If any such compromise is to be reached in the very few weeks available, Mr. Callaghan will have to talk more realistically about the aims of policy. The Government has talked only about checking inflation; it has not pointed out that a wage acceleration in the context of a firmly anti-inflationary monetary policy would do as much to raise unemployment as to raise prices.

In any case, it is not very clear that government restraints have had any very startling effect on the average rise in earnings; it has been within a point or two of what an unstrained monetary forecast would suggest, and is likely to be so again. However, the extra 1 per cent or 2 per cent would not have gone to workers in general, but to a handful in an exceptionally strong bargaining position.

What is really wanted from the unions, by the CBI as much as by the Government, is a collective commitment to realism, rather than unthinking support for those who shout loudest. If the unions want to be trusted, as Mr. Joe Gormley demanded, they must do something to earn trust. Their immense legal immunities are not a licence to rob.

## Unpopular

The idea of any effort at moderation by the TUC, at a time when the militants are making all the noise, may seem far fetched; but the union leaders, so far as they can claim to lead, must be aware of the consequences of an open split in the labour movement if it is allowed to persist. Mr. Callaghan claims that his approach has general support, and opinion polls in the past have confirmed his belief. The unions also know that they are deeply unpopular. The Prime Minister has already implied a threat to appeal to a higher source of authority than the party conference, by going to the country; and although this is probably largely rhetorical, he and his supporters know that Parliament could shortly leave him no choice in the matter.

The minority parties will find it hard to support a government which for the moment has lost all authority for its policies. The Prime Minister and the TUC have a few short weeks to show that the labour movement is a movement and not a rabble, and that they lead it. Failing that, the party has voted for its own defeat.

## New optimism on SALT

BOTH Washington and Moscow are once again making encouraging noises about prospects for the signature of a new strategic arms limitation agreement (SALT II). At the end of last week, President Carter said he hoped that agreement could be reached by the end of the year, and both sides agreed that there had been "some movement" during the latest round of negotiations that finished in Washington at the weekend. Mr. Cyrus Vance, the U.S. State Secretary, is now to fly to Moscow for further talks with Mr. Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart, in the second half of this month.

## Overdue

It is, of course, easy to be cynical about such optimistic pronouncements. They sound remarkably similar to the forecasts of imminent agreement that have been heard on numerous occasions in recent months. After the Vance-Gromyko meeting in Moscow last April, the Americans said they were reasonably confident that the five-year-long negotiations could be finally wrapped up at a summit meeting between President Carter and Mr. Brezhnev some time in July.

The final stage of such negotiations is inevitably the most difficult. For many months, the Americans have been claiming that 85 per cent of the new agreement is already incorporated in the voluminous draft text that already exists. It is also generally thought that Mr. Brezhnev and President Carter will want to take the credit for resolving a couple of important issues when they finally meet. As no Carter-Brezhnev summit has yet been announced, the assumption must be that a number of serious gaps still remain to be closed in the area covered by the last 5 per cent of unsolved issues.

Nevertheless, the overall climate in which the negotiations are being conducted has improved in recent months. The general tone of bilateral relations between Moscow and Washington is less acrimonious than it was earlier in the year. A major factor has been a more sophisticated and less alarmist American interpretation of the Russian threat in Africa matched by some indications of restraint by the Cuban forces there. Meanwhile President Carter's hand has been strengthened by Congressional victories and the Camp David summit success. The President's authority will be a key factor in the administration's battle to secure Congressional approval for whatever SALT II agreement finally emerges.

At the same time, there is now much less talk in Washington of linking a new SALT agreement to Soviet good behaviour in other areas. The view that SALT is so important that it must be judged on its own merits seems, for the moment at least, to have won the day. That does not mean, however, that SALT is totally isolated from other developments.

## Western Europe

It will be a pity if what is likely to be an acrimonious debate over the terms of a SALT II agreement has the effect of regarding serious consideration of the SALT III negotiations that are due to follow—particularly in Western Europe. The first time to include weapons systems based in, and targeted on, Western Europe, and could have major implications for the future of the British and French nuclear deterrents. If the SALT II agreement really is to be concluded by the end of the year, it is high time for much greater attention to be focused on what lies beyond it.

## SWISS EXPORTS

SWISS EXPORTERS, like Swiss securities. The reasoning behind the relaxations in part Germany, have been crying "wolf" for so long that it is difficult to persuade oneself that the latest appreciation of the Swiss franc will place them in serious trouble. But equally, sooner or later the constant process of revaluation has to have some effect on their sales, and there is some reason to suppose that the moment of crisis may have arrived.

The note of anxiety in Bern is unmistakable. Dr. Fritz Leutwiler, Governor of the central bank, has described the strength of the Swiss currency as ridiculous and suggestions have even been made that stimulatory measures may be required next year to save the Swiss economy from a severe setback. What is perhaps more revealing is that Bern has hesitated to resort to the measures that have been applied and re-applied in the past in similar situations. The impression is hard to avoid that the authorities are themselves puzzled by the problem.

## Doubled in value

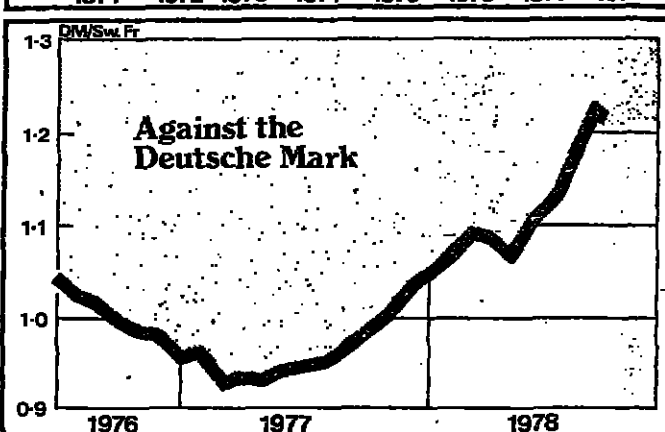
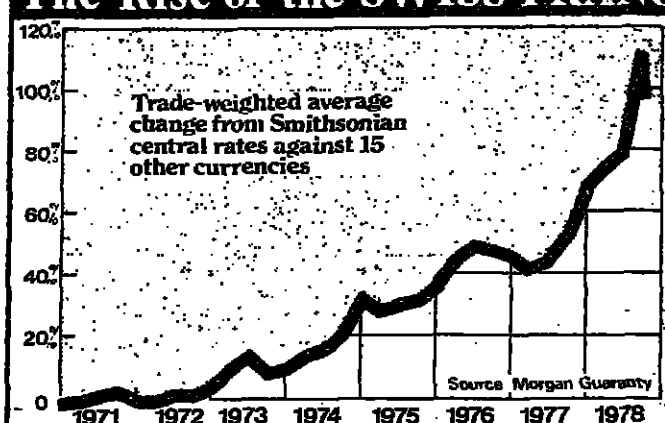
One figure alone really suffices to show up the size of the problem. Trade-weighted, the value of the Swiss franc has more than doubled in value since 1971, compared with the currencies of the customers of the Swiss. Much of that appreciation, of course, has had nothing to do with trade as such: capital movements into a country of political stability and with not too inquisitive a tax collector have been the main spring. For that reason the Swiss have taken a succession of measures intended to ward off capital inflows. It would be wrong to write them off as a failure, since nobody could possibly tell how high the franc would have been without them. But the fact remains that the desired effect was not achieved.

The defensive measures reached a high point early this year when foreigners were barred from purchasing Swiss securities (except for a quota of franc-denominated loans raised on behalf of foreign borrowers), and when a punitive levy of 10 per cent a quarter was imposed upon franc deposits held in Swiss banks on behalf of non-residents. Even then, it was clear that loopholes could be found, for instance by placing money not with a bank but with a life insurance company. As part of the new policy now painfully evolving in Bern, the measures have in part actually been softened. The non-resident quota in foreign loans has been raised, and the purchase of Swiss securities is permitted to non-residents provided they are only reinvesting the proceeds of the sale of other

Given the manner in which

## Risks and rewards of the rise of the franc

## The Rise of the SWISS FRANC



the workforce was run down, it has been possible to keep the unemployment rate down to its usual minute amount: 0.3 per cent at the last count. More over the number of people at work has begun to increase again, by some 1.3 per cent in the 11 months to August. Those statistics, however, also show where the appreciation of the franc has hurt most. Employment in the clothing industry was down by 2.4 per cent, in the textile industry by 1.2 per cent and in the chemical industry by 0.5 per cent.

Taken overall, the export figures so far available show no obvious ravages of appreciation. Exports in the first eight months of this year totalled SwFr 27.2bn (about \$8.4bn) against SwFr 26.8bn in January-August 1977—a nominal increase of about 1 per cent, but a far greater real increase given the rise of the franc. The mechanical engineering industry was among the best performers, the chemical industry held its own, whereas the textile clothing and shoe industries suffered reverses of differing gravity.

It is worth looking at some of the sectors in greater detail. In August, exports of chemical fibres were down by 7.7 per cent in value; those of yarns made of chemical fibres were down by 3.8 per cent, and those of materials woven from chemical fibres were actually up by 1.3 per cent. No doubt there is something fortuitous to these figures, but the message is fairly clear: the greater the added

of exports has been by and large exempted from the effects of the appreciation of the franc. The evasive action that Swiss companies have been taking has consisted not only of moving up market, but also of transferring abroad an increasing part of their production: that applies especially in the case of chemicals, shoes and foodstuffs. What has been kept at home has been the more specialised items, such as pharmaceuticals, with their higher added value, greater demand for skills, and incidentally lesser environmental problems.

The process of specialisation and moving upmarket can take on some odd forms. Whatever it does for its designer, the ladies' watch with half a dozen brilliant cut diamonds inserted under the glass to roll about merrily will not by itself save the Swiss economy. For has been going on really, is the shake-out in the labour force. It is a kill or cure medicine as a large number of bankruptcies testify. Profits have clearly come under pressure in export markets, and also at home from rising imports. In January-August of 1978 they came to SwFr 28.17bn, leaving the usual visible deficit, even though investment income (amounting to SwFr 6bn in 1977) and tourist revenue usually put the current account into the black. That often leaves something over for net capital exports in spite of all the capital inflows.

Not that the success story so far—and so far it must be accounted entirely by good management and the curative effect of market forces. There has been a little guiding of fate done for instance by persuading the Swiss banks to provide export finance at especially favourable rates for some industries that were or are in difficulties. Watches are a case in point.

The banks acted partly from the realisation that they could not expect to flourish in a sick economy, especially in view of the close links between Swiss industry and the world of finance. But there must also have been an element of public relations involved. The Swiss Social Democrats, who are members of the all-but permanent government coalition, have for long suspected the banks of upholding bank secrecy for reasons not entirely altruistic, and hence of being responsible in part for the rise of the franc.

Small businessmen and industrialists (some of whom are among the most dynamic entrepreneurs in the country) have also been critical of both the banks and the Swiss multinationals, whom they instinctively suspect of manipulating the exchange rate to the disadvantage of the smaller man. There has been mounting agitation to modify bank secrecy, to which the banks have made certain concessions. There is a gentleman's agreement, for instance, by which they undertake not actively to seek deposits from foreigners who, by the law of their own country, are forbidden to have Swiss accounts. But the possible loopholes are there for all to see.

For the foreseeable future, one has to assume that the Swiss electorate will grumble but will not want bank secrecy to be abolished. Since any step in that direction could be challenged in a referendum, the consent of the electorate would be essential.

So what do the Swiss do? A split exchange rate has been proposed, with a lower rate for trade than for capital transactions. For that to occur the situation would have to become a good deal more serious. For a start, it may be doubted whether the machinery exists to police such a split: there would be constant leaks from one side of the fence to the other.

An attempt can be made to insulate more industries at least in part by extending cheaper export finance, and, by helping with forward transactions. The banks could perhaps be persuaded to give more help to the exporter who has concluded a contract in foreign currency and then just be afraid that its franc-value will diminish.

## Most serious competitor

One very obvious approach remains. Trade relations between Switzerland and West Germany are extremely close, and moreover the Germans are probably the most serious competitors the Swiss have in third markets. Judging by some of the statements coming from Bern, what really irks the Swiss is not the appreciation of their currency vis-à-vis the dollar and the rest of the world, but the appreciation vis-à-vis the D-Mark. The West German inflation rate accretes that problem.

Bern must therefore be very tempted to seek aviation in a link with the European Currency Unit that Bn and Paris are aiming at. Reports coming from there yesterday bear this out. If the franc can be kept in a reasonably relationship with the D-Mark much would be improved from the Swiss exporters' viewpoint.

That is for the future. The immediate Swiss aim is to persuade the world that the franc need not rise forever. Over the years that has proved difficult: speculation has again and again become self-fulfilling. If the juncture now reached is as serious as Mr. Swiss believe, it should actually help to damp down speculative ardour.

## Upgraded form

It has been a distinct source of strength in the recent situation that the Swiss economy is heavily dependent upon imports of raw materials and industrial components. Imports have been coming in more cheaply in franc terms and have thereby helped to hold down the inflation rate and with it labour costs. A sizeable portion of Swiss exports must also consist of components and raw materials re-exported in upgraded form. That portion

## MEN AND MATTERS

## Sticking to tradition

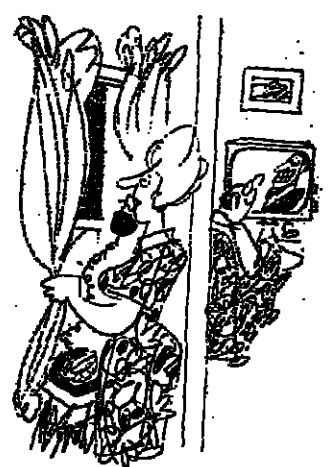
Tiffany's at Blackpool is not the scene of lingering breakfasts but is the ballroom where the Labour Party traditionally starts its jamboree. Thronging between its splendid plastic oak trees on Sunday night, the Socialists joined in a session of Any Questions? which was mainly memorable for the deftness with which Energy Secretary Tony Benn sidestepped questions on the Bingham report: the only time he looked worried was when Shirley Williams, the Education Secretary, improvised on the official line to say that a blockade of South Africa would have been the only way to make sanctions effective.

Later, the stage curtains drew apart to reveal a drably-dressed comper with a girl in a fetching red-sequined cat suit at his side. So many eyes were fixed on her that it took some time for people to realise that the comper was in fact the Prime Minister.

At this point a minister in a corner was heard to tell one of his colleagues: "The Africans knew for years that we were cheating. It was obvious that the Rhodesians were getting oil from somewhere. The Foreign Office told me that it was coming from Iran via South Africa 18 months after they knew differently." But the minister soon made it clear that the official line on Bingham was not changing, imploring my own colleague to forget this illuminating conversation.

## Fabian exports

Its name tends to evoke the past rather than the present but yesterday the Fabian Society survived its tea dance and held a thoughtful, thinly-attended meeting in a room where Barbara Castle's speech on



"Sam is watching Tommy Cooper and I'm watching for the Detector Van."

They are quite happy with slick answers."

Asked if the Fabians had ever thought of changing their name, Miss Hayter said it was out of the question: "It would break an enormous number of national and international links." Among them, she says, is that with Mauritius, whose ambassador in London was due to attend the meeting. He had been a life-long member of the Fabians, and had recruited fellow-members to help set up a welfare state in Mauritius similar to our own.

## Moved on

It is tough at the top in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food where the MAFF—as it is sometimes known in Whitehall—rules to rigorous effect. Witness yesterday's resignation of Sir Frederick Kears from his post as second permanent secretary.

Earlier this decade his star had beamed brightly when he took charge of farm and food policy at the time the ground was prepared for Britain's entry into the EEC. After entry his work was quickly seen in the development of the strategy which led to the breaking of the French stranglehold on the farm policy.

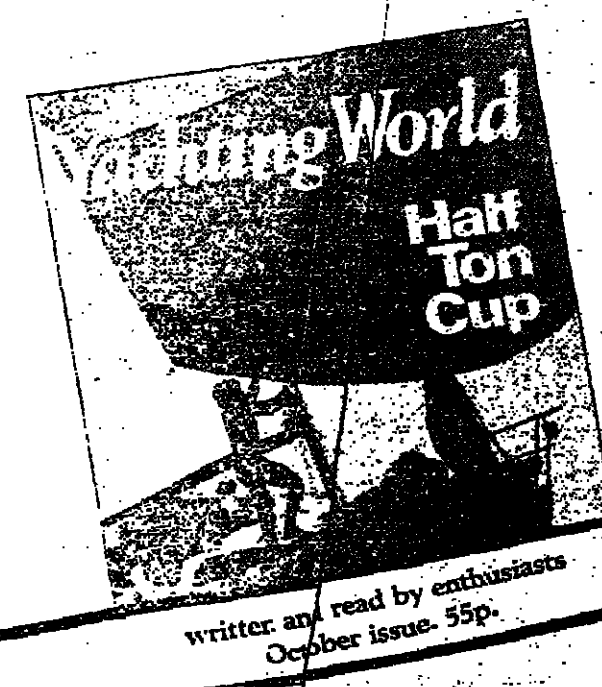
He struck up close relationships with both Pierre Lardinois, then EEC Agriculture Commissioner, and Fred Peart, the British minister involved, who was quickly seen in the development of the strategy which led to the breaking of the French stranglehold on the farm policy.

## Pride

From Prague comes the story of a middle-aged Czech couple who were walking in Wenceslaus Square when they saw a Russian officer coming towards them. "Greetings, respected comrade colonel," the husband said, raising his hat. "Out of my way, westernised reactionary pig!" the colonel bellowed as he strode past. The wife squeezed her husband's arm: "Isn't it wonderful, he recognised you!"

## Half Ton Cup Series

October's Yachting World reports fully on the most important international offshore event of the year—the Half Ton Cup. We take a close look at autopilots and assess pros and cons of the various models currently available. Then to a description of the completely new rig, the Anglo-Italian Luno—designed by Dick Carter for the man who's on his way to getting everything. Plus reports from Burnham and Thanet Weeks. Part three of Building a Warship and a review of navigational calculators.



written and read by enthusiasts October issue 55p.

Observer



# Bank of England's new industrial role

BY MARGARET REID

THOSE WHO think the solution to Britain's economic problems lies in grappling with individual industrial problems as much as in applying the right national monetary and tax policies are to be found not only in Whitehall and in company boardrooms.

One of the chief among them is Mr. Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, under whose regime since mid-1973 the Bank has developed a new and important involvement in the difficulties of certain industries and even individual companies.

So quiet has the Bank's intervention been that little is generally known about it. Yet, in addition to its known role in assisting the revamping of the banking industry and in the slimming down, with appropriate financing arrangements, of Spillers, which has withdrawn from bread-making, it has played a discreet and unpublicised part in relation to the unravelling of problems at certain other well-known companies.

For instance, when J. Lyons faced serious headaches two years ago through the boost given to the burden of its large overseas borrowings by the steep fall in the pound, the Bank kept a close and sympathetic eye on arrangements for combating the difficulty. A series of disposals of hotels and other assets—which was carried out by the company allowed debt to be steadily cut back and, as it happened, J. Lyons is now being acquired in a much-discussed £64m takeover by the giant Allied Breweries. The Bank, however, in no way initiated this merger, which is taking place with Lyons having reduced its borrowings, though they are still large.

Because of the confidential nature of banking relationships, a company with a problem to tackle may sometimes be more willing to approach the Bank than a Government Department for a word of advice at an early stage. The Bank may be able, as an observer says, to apply a spot of oil in the works—lubrication which can take the form of pointing the way to certain advisers, talking with a clearing bank which may have large overdrafts outstanding to the company, or even nourishing the board's relationship with important and potentially helpful institutional shareholders.

## Concern

The Bank's extensive concern with industry, the development of its Industrial Finance Unit, and the appointment of the eminent advisers it now has in this field, are hardly surprising in view of the Governor's background. Mr. Richardson was originally a commercial harrier and, before succeeding Lord O'Brien as Governor of the Bank, he was chairman of Schroders, the merchant banking group which advises a wide range of companies, and a director of several leading concerns.

Sir Henry Benson, senior partner until his retirement of City accountants Coopers and Lybrand, was appointed industrial adviser to the Bank Governor in 1975. More recently, Lord Croham who, as Sir Douglas Allen, was successively both Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and Head of the Civil Service, has also become an adviser to the industrial field.

In addition the Bank's Industrial Finance Unit has been built up over the past four or

five years to a 20-strong team. Committee on financial institutions has clearly shown there is no shortage of sources of capital for industry, though knowledge of them may sometimes be inadequate. It is not difficult to imagine that, among eligible suppliers of finance for any appropriate modernisation or expansion of the clothing industry, would be Equity Capital for Industry, the City's equity bank which has as yet done relatively little business, and Finance for Industry, the bank-backed body which has also been searching hard for enough suitable lending outlets.

An initiative by the Bank of England in response to the scarcity of funds in the dark cash-squeeze days of the winter of 1974-75 led, in May 1976, to the controversial setting up of Equity Capital, which is backed by over 360 investing institutions and by FFI. The Bank itself owns 15 per cent of FFI, the rest of whose capital is held by the big banks.

In the most novel and little recognised of its functions in the industrial context—helping to solve the problems of individual major companies—Equity Capital has been particularly active in keeping the companies concerned in the pre-emptive negotiations in active action, such as disposals or closures. It might well, in the development of arrangements by which Spillers obtained substantial short-term facilities from its bankers, pending the working out of new terms to place its financing on a more permanent footing.

The Bank is most reluctant to discuss its "freeman" role in problem situations, understandably taking the view that the willingness of companies to seek its advice is nourished by its preservation of confidentiality. Naturally, this might, of course, self-defeating if secrecy

instance of the Bank's general interest in industrial situations. But the sentence quoted can be read as an allusion, for example, to what the Bank did in consultations with leading up to Spillers' withdrawal from the baking

about its activities was so total that those who might be helped remained quite ignorant of what the Bank could do. Generally, the Bank sees its role in this kind of situation as that of taking an interest in any problem which is brought to its

shareholding and might be willing to help the company or invest further in it. On occasion, the Bank has been known to bring such parties together, with fruitful results. It emerged publicly in a recent court hearing concerning Birmah Oil—the subject of the Bank of England's best-known and by far its most dramatic intervention in the industrial sector—that in late 1974 the Bank had a request out to merchant banks to be informed as soon as possible of any major financial problems under their knowledge.

The Bank sees its role of doing good behind the scenes as easier if companies with a problem come to it in good time. This appears to happen more often nowadays.

A question of a different character at present occupying the Bank is the idea of a possible bank loan guarantee scheme for small and medium-sized firms which have exhausted their unsupported ability to borrow. In its recent report, the reconstituted Committee on Finance for Industry (headed by Lord Roll, chairman of S. G. Warburg, the City's 100 per cent bank of the National Economic Development Council) did not make a final recommendation on the desirability of launching such a scheme of the kind run in the U.S. by the Small Business Administration in Britain.

But the report did say that an experiment might be worthwhile. As a result, the Bank is at present engaged in much preparatory work about the form which such a scheme could take if it were eventually launched. Some observers rate the chances of the establishment of such a guarantee arrangement at 50:50. The Bank has also sought to fill what it feels may be an important information gap by publishing, jointly with the City



Advisers on industry: Mr. Pat Koppel (left) and Lord Croham.

industry earlier this year, notice, seeing that the concern in question is in touch with the requisite advisers and perhaps discussing some broad course of action, such as disposals or closures. It might well, in the development of arrangements by which Spillers obtained substantial short-term facilities from its bankers, pending the working out of new terms to place its financing on a more permanent footing.

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Communications Centre, a guide to financial sources called "Money for Business." Copies of this booklet, price £1, are obtainable through banks or accountants or direct from the Bank of England itself.

Within the Bank of England's sizeable Industrial Finance Unit one area where expertise is being enlarged is in the computer study of company statistics. The unit has, for the past few months, been taking the Datastream service, which is used to study ratios of the various kinds cherished by analysts. Borrowing figures, gearing ratios and other measures of companies' situation and health are scrutinised.

It does not appear that the Bank, at present at least, uses the computer statistical service as an early warning system of emerging corporate problems. But the service plays a valuable role for the comparison of the position of any individual concern which is being looked at with the averages for its own sector, and could be used extensively for varied other studies.

One important aspect of the Bank's position vis-à-vis industry is that its team of eight Agents in regional centres, including Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and Glasgow, keeps in close touch with industrial trends in the areas and relays the resultant information to the Bank. The results of this service are also made available to the Government.

The links the Bank thus maintains with the regions have been reinforced lately through periodic visits of some of the Bank's directors and other senior staff to the various centres, where social gatherings are held with local industrialists to advance discussion of relevant issues.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Protectionism and the weak

From Mr. W. Colvert

Sir—Your editorial "Protectionism hurts the weak" (September 27) shows some lack of awareness of the issues faced by governments of developed countries in dealing with low cost imports.

In the footwear industry, which is not untypical of many consumer goods industries, published figures indicate that approximately three-quarters of the world's shoe making capacity currently operates behind non-tariff barriers or in most cases complete bans on imports. Thus, trade for most of the world is already regulated or simply prevented. The only markets of any significance that have remained open to West Europe (with non-EEC countries protected by high tariffs) and the U.S.

It follows that, while we have to contend with the concentrated marketing efforts of all the world's most powerful footwear exporting countries on our home market, our exports are shut-out from most markets in return.

Ideally we would like to see the barriers erected against us removed; we believe that we would be fully competitive on level terms in open markets.

In practice for various reasons this is unattainable and hence the only course apart from suicide is to erect our own barriers.

It is also too simple a picture to imply that strong countries are protecting themselves against weak countries. In our industry the weakest countries tend to have no exporting capability at all. In recent years the fastest growing exporters have been a few newly industrialised countries who have developed their industries behind bans on imports and who in many cases are now running comfortable balance of payments surpluses. With their low wages, long hours of work, easy access to Western technology, design ideas, and to accept imports in return they hold all the cards in a growing number of industries and can in no sense be portrayed simply as the weak.

W. N. S. Colvert.  
British Footwear Manufacturers Federation.  
Royalty House, 72, Dean Street, W.1.

### Restraint of competition

From the Director, The Knitting Industries' Federation

Sir—I am dismayed by the short-sighted hypothesis expounded in your leader of September 27, under the heading of "Protectionism hurts the weak."

It is accepted that no reasonable person should attempt to argue against the paramount need to promote international trade, the often unacceptable advance the socio-economic situation, in the less developed countries. This must, however, surely not be achieved at the expense of sacrificing established and essential industries in the developed world which, like textiles and clothing, are largely employers of labour.

the East Midlands, despite above average industrial diversifications. It is inconceivable that many of these jobs should be allowed to be sacrificed on the altar of liberalisation.

Low cost imports of textiles and clothing from Third World sources, are often the products of labour which is grossly exploited in a manner repugnant to the international Labour Organisation, which benefit from export subsidies and where the heavy overhead costs of social policy and environmental charges do not exist. Beyond that, the domestic industries in these countries are paradoxically protected by truly penal tariffs and non-tariff barriers which are not only applied against goods from developed nations but also other developing countries which enable their industries to achieve high levels of profitability within their own domestic markets.

Textiles, clothing and footwear no longer stand alone. As we enter a new era of more capital intensive and higher technology industries, such as steel and TV sets, are no longer insulated from the market disruption generated by low labour cost economies. As capital and know-how seek out sources of cheap labour, this established trend will continue, as night follows day, to the point where only those engaged in the very highest technologies may feel secure but, such industries are usually low users of labour. Freedom of choice in this area is a basic freedom.

The institution of state or other projects to offer unemployed people employment is a proposition of altogether different merit. Tony Wilkinson "Idle Vount".  
Rector, Wink, Gamston, Nr. Relford, Notts.

Unemployment benefits

From Rosemary Mills

Sir—I must take issue with Mr. Gleadow over his comments (September 28) that the failure to tax unemployment benefits does not encourage people to remain unemployed. The fact that this claim is a "popular" one does not in any way undermine its veracity. Indeed as Sir Keith Joseph stated recently: "what is surprising is that so many people are prepared to work in spite of the fact that they could be better off, or very little worse off, unemployed." Perhaps Mr. Gleadow is not as an employed person, aware of the magnitude of the benefits in net terms—hardly "little bits" of social security.

As long ago as 1976 a man with three children earning £70 per week in employment received a net income precisely 61p per week more than his unemployed neighbour with a similar number of children and a similar normal earning level. The unemployed neighbour with four children, however, also with a normal earning level of £70, was as much as £3.78 per week better off. With the increase in benefits since that date, the gap has widened considerably. Moreover, the same argument that I raised in my initial letter in opposing immediate dolls being given to school leavers, is that it is highly inflationary and that wage inflation can only lead ultimately to increased unemployment. The method of imposing the ban (by cancellation of licences already issued) was particularly criticised, since this completely disregards the problems for producers and consumers alike, that such a rapid stop entails. It is made more difficult to understand when one realises that the agreed total cotton yarn input from Turkey

the EEC is unlikely to be reached this year. Is the UK part of the EEC or not?

I understand that the balance of trade, Turkey-UK, is £150m per annum in our favour. It seems to me extremely foolish to let this trade for such a small amount of yarn value left available for 1978.

S. Hart.  
Withington Hart, Century House, 14, Albion Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire.

### Choice of jobs

From the Liberal Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bosseton

Sir—The Conservative Monday club (taking heed of its party's stance as a guardian of democracy) has suggested that people out of work for over a year should be obliged to take any job offered for which they are suitably qualified. Their reaction to the suggestion that logic and equity dictate that an employer, in return, should accept any employee suitably qualified for any job offered, would be interesting.

As an employer of 800 people, and in the knowledge that the working relationship is fundamental to the successful operation of the enterprise, my reaction would I think be that if I were to suggest that it would be very interesting to know what percentage of those currently unemployed is accounted for by immigrants of all colours. There is no doubt that the level of unemployment among immigrants is considerably higher than the average and this is surely something which the next Government of whatever complexion must take into consideration in deciding its future immigration policies.

West Grays, Highercombe Road, Haslemere, Surrey.

### Transport strategy

From the President, The British Transport Officers' Guild

Sir—The response (September 26) by the Director-General of the Chartered Institute of Transport to the Guild's letter of September 22 is interesting and certainly calls for comment; for it appears that we are both seeking some way by which a more co-ordinated approach to a logical transport strategy could be achieved.

The Director-General would prefer to see the establishment of one, all-embracing Department of Transport and we would agree that a good case can be made for all forms of transport to be brought within the purview of one Government Department. However, such a transport over-land would still be perhaps even more in need of the best possible factual information and advice before policy decisions were taken.

Prime Minister addresses Labour Party conference at Blackpool.

South African cabinet considers the UN Security Council resolution on Namibia.

Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's special security adviser, in Bonn for talks with West German Government.

President Nimeiri of Sudan (chairman of the Organisation of African Unity) meets Herr Helmut Schmidt, West German Chancellor.

Lockheed bribe trial resumes in Rome.

Stock Exchange turnover figures published.

London Business Show opens.

Cunard International Hotel, London (until October 6).

Presentation of the Queen's Award for Export and Technology to Bland Payne Holdings at Guildhall, London.

Sir Peter Vaneek, Lord Mayor of London, attends Gresham Committee (City Side) dinner at the Mansion House.

Official Secrets trial resumes at the Old Bailey.

Astrid Proll appears on remand at Bow Street Magistrates' Court.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Treasury publishes UK official reserves for September.

## Today's Events

Bank of England September figures for capital issues and redemptions.

COMPANY RESULTS

Final dividends: Armstrong Equipment, Ingall Industries, Park Place Investments, Interim dividends: Avery's, Bankers Investment Trust, Cape Industries, Estates and General Investments.

COMPANY MEETINGS

Dowty, Arle Court, Cheltenham, Glos. 11. English and Overseas Investments, Winchester House, 100 Old Broad Street, EC. 12. Investment Company, 16 St. Martins-Le-Grand, EC. 12.

## SPORT

Show Jumping: Horse of the Year Show, Wexley.

Boxing: Alan Richardson v. Les Pickett, Aberdeen.

EXHIBITION

Chinese Stamps, Stanley Gibbons Gallery, Strand, London, WC2 (until October 30).

LUNCHEON MUSIC, London

Pauline Thurburn (soprano) recital at St. Peter-un-Cornhill, 12.30.

Harold Dexter organ recital at St. Botolph, Aldgate, 1.00.

Margaret Phillips organ recital at St. Lawrence Jewry, 1.00.

City Music Society, Landini Consort, at Bishopsgate Hall, 1.05.

Dr. Harry Gabb organ recital at Holy Sepulchre, Holborn Viaduct, 1.15.

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The map shows the approximate locations of the Assisted Areas. Send in the coupon for the explanatory leaflet on the Small Firms Employment Subsidy, or phone Jack Bellis on 01-214 6446.

This scheme is open for application until 31st March, 1979. And the sooner you apply, the better.

Assisted Areas  
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## Small Firms Employment Subsidy

Please send me details of the Small Firms Employment Subsidy Scheme, and the areas in which it applies.

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Department of Employment DE



## COMPANY NEWS

Marshall Cavendish down  
£0.6m—sees improvement

WITH RESULTS depressed by the failure of a new weekly magazine and the postponement of a major partwork launch because of an industrial dispute, taxable profit of Marshall Cavendish fell to £374,000 in the 26 weeks to June 30, 1978, compared with £1,201,000 in the first 26 weeks last year.

Directors say, however, that the group has had a successful programme of autumn partwork launches and that profits for the full year should be about £1.0m, compared with last year's £1.0m.

Sales for the period were £9.57m, again £8.2m, and after tax of £288,000 (£282,000) net profit was £276,000 (£378,000). Earnings per 10p share are given at 1.116p against 2.82p.

There were minority interests of £11,000 (£14,000), and attributable profit came out at £265,000 (£364,000).

The interim dividend is 1.34p against 1.32p last time, and a final payment similar to last year's 3.65p net is forecast.

## ● comment

Marshall Cavendish's attempt to break into the weekly magazine market has proved to be an expensive failure. "Faces" magazine lasted only 12 issues and left the company with losses in excess of £500,000. This, coupled with industrial disputes meant that pre-tax profits in the 26 weeks to June 30, 1978 were 32 per cent down. Directors are pinning their second half hopes on three new partwork launches. "On the Road", "Stitch by Stitch" and "Football Handbook". The first of the three, which is designed for car handymen and spread over 98 issues, is shaping up to be one of the most successful publications of the Cavendish group. If the three live up to expectations, pre-tax profits for the year should reach £2.4m. With the shares selling at 51p this gives a p/e of 8.8 and a yield of 12.3 per cent (assuming dividend is maintained).

## KCA DIVIDEND

The chairman of KCA International, Mr. P. Bristol, said at the AGM that the company would return to paying a proper dividend as soon as practical. It pays

only a nominal amount at present. Mr. Bristol forecast an increase in profits for the current year.

Downturn  
at Percy  
Lane

FOR THE first half of 1978 taxable profit of Percy Lane Group dropped from £882,000 to £12,000 on a combination of sales down from £8.71m to £7.94m and pressure on margins.

Mr. R. P. Lane, the chairman, says the weakness in demand referred to in his last annual statement has continued, particularly from continental caravan manufacturers. While some improvement in the UK position has yet to be matched in Luxembourg, the directors expect to be able to pay an increased dividend for the year. The interim is held at 1.2p with an additional 0.02p to be paid for 1977. Last year's 2.08p final was paid on record pre-tax profits of £1.25m.

Of the sales total the UK contributed £2,920,000 (£2,480,000) and Luxembourg £5,030,000 (£5,020,000). (Of the profit, the UK share was £40,000 (£39,000) and the Luxembourg share £882,000 (£563,000). The result is subject to a tax of £157,200 (£143,200) with the Luxembourg share £131,000 (£126,000). Net profit came out at £153,400 (£239,700).

A revaluation of group properties showed a gross surplus over book value of £1,070,000. A decision on the treatment of the surplus in its accounts will be made before the year end.

## ● comment

Percy Lane's half-time figures are as poor as the company's long-term warnings earlier this year suggested. Unfortunately, the interim forecast then for the second half is by no means assured. Caravan output for Europe as a whole was 20 per cent down in the first half of the year and the immediate prospects for the industry, which has an August/July order cycle, will not be clear until the autumn shows

have taken place. The small sales improvement in the UK in the first half largely stems from the group's architectural window division; the Scottish building window interests, however, are still depressed and Haden's disposal of its business has been hit by the downturn in the Middle East construction industry. Threatened strikes at BOC, one of its major suppliers, are also hanging over the group, which is already suffering from excess capacity after having enlarged three factories last year in anticipation of higher sales. Assuming a dividend increased by 10 per cent the shares yield a comfortable 11.8 per cent at 48p.

Parker  
Timber  
progress

OVERHEADS CONTINUE to rise, but Mr. K. Whitby, chairman of the Parker Timber Group, is confident that a further prosperous year will be achieved. Turnover for the first five months to August 31 has increased in value by 17 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Freehold premises have been recently bought in Leicester for Parker Timber (Plywood) which will increase capacity and reduce storage and handling costs, the chairman says.

For the year ended March 31, 1978, profits before tax amounted to £2,200,000 against £2,740,000. Group turnover, including direct exports of £236,000, was £45,740,000 compared with £41,060,000.

During the year capital expenditure on projects and machinery amounted to £1,310,000—a record. The additions to land and buildings of £281,000 included a new sawmill at Dunston on Tyne (to be opened on October 1), extensive additional buildings at Deptford, and further land in Rotherham and Pinxton.

It is expected that the building programme in Deptford will be completed by March next year and will increase further capacity and improve services to customers, says Mr. Whitby. Meeting, 8.15p, Kent, October 27 at noon.

Haden Carrier £1.03m  
on better sales trend

A JUMP in taxable profit from £703,000 to £1,023,000 is reported by Haden Carrier, building services and metal finishing engineering group, for the first six months of 1978 on sales £7.2m better at £86.6m. However, after tax up from £436,000 to £835,000, net earnings came out £33,900 up at £239,000.

Sir Allan Pullinger, the chairman, says that the higher level of turnover will continue in the second half. In June he forecast that group profits would move towards a more satisfactory level in 1978. They had reached a peak of £3.7m in 1973 and last year were down at £1.4m.

Although in the UK construction market there are some signs of revival in demand, growth will remain sluggish, while in France the market is still declining with an inevitable and costly requirement to reduce staff numbers. On the other hand the re-equipment of the motor industry with which Carrier Drays is much concerned, continues apace in most countries, especially in the U.S. where the subsidiary has been awarded a number of significant contracts.

In the Middle East, where the group experienced much difficulty last year, the situation is improving. Even so, with the high cost of supporting UK overheads, together with a conservative approach to the valuation of work in progress, there will be a significant loss from this area in 1978, though at a reduced level compared with 1977.

Work is proceeding to plan, and as several more satisfactory contracts come on stream the

Beatson Clark ahead but less  
buoyant second half likely

ANNOUNCING TAXABLE profits ahead from £1,150m to £1,450m for the first half of 1978, the directors of Beatson, Clark and Co., makers of glass containers, say that the full year figure should equal the record £2,200m for the whole of 1977.

In the annual report in April, the directors stated that while they were confident about the future demand for glass containers, they recognised that the loss of production at the company's Rotherham works through the complete reconstruction of a glass melting furnace there, would make it difficult to improve on 1977 results.

The new report that work has

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Company	Page	Col.	Company	Page
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Grimshaw Hldgs.	23	1	Marshall Cavendish	22
GT Japan Inv.	23	2	Parker Timber	22
Haden Carrier	22	4	Pullman (R. & J.)	22
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Ingham (G.)	23	5	Smurfit (Jefferson)	23

directors expect improved results from the Middle East operations in the following years.

The interim dividend is raised to 3p (2.75p) per 25p share and costs £22,382 (£21,026). A 5.045p final was paid in 1977. Minorities at half-time took £1,000 (£8,000) and the 26 weeks' surplus was £356,000 (£238,000).

## ● comment

Haden Carrier is showing signs of recovery in the first half after a difficult trading twelve months. The main cause of the trouble has been two Middle East contracts (now valued at around £45m) which are on a fixed price basis (and originally fixed term) and are nearly three years behind schedule. These are now expected to be completed in 1979-80. However, work is now well underway and losses are likely to

be lower than the £4.83m declared in the last year. Meanwhile, the group's Carrier Drays metal finishing activities are likely to boost profits by up to £2m, again mainly from the U.S. markets. More worrying are the UK building engineering services activities, accounting for nearly a half of group turnover, which have experienced pressure on margins although there has been a revival in demand. And across the channel the group is shouldering a heavy redundancy programme which will add around £200,000 to costs. For the full year Haden may have little trouble in making £1.5m, compared with £1.4m. On that basis the shares at 121p stand on a prospective yield of 12.3 per cent. The shares are expected to be something better of the group. The shares yield an attractive 10.8 per cent.

—trading profits 36 per cent ahead on sales up by nearly 40%—are slightly better than United Glass for the same period. With food consumption showing little growth, United's volume sales of glass containers were steady but BC's increased by just under a tenth, mainly because of the company's emphasis on the pharmaceutical industry (three quarters of the earnings), where sales have improved by nearly a fifth. This pattern is also evident in export markets, where sales are 29 per cent higher. Second half profits will not be as buoyant, however, due to the reconstruction of the Rotherham factory (a quarter of group output) which has meant a break in production for two months. But the company's forecast of maintained profits for the year looks to be a little conservatively, especially with a price rise becoming effective from October. Around £2.6m pre-tax looks a more likely outcome. At 195p the shares stand on an undemanding prospective p/e of 3.8 taking a line through the interim tax charge, but the yield of 2.3 per cent, admittedly covered nine times, knocks some of the gloss of the rating.

## ● comment

Beatson, Clark's first half results

Shareholder pressure for changes at Saint Piran, the controversial mining and building group, continued yesterday when Mr. Robert Morrison, chairman of Planned Savings Life Assurance Group, met one of the directors, Mr. V. E. Skinner, at the offices of the company's brokers, Joseph Sebat and Co.

Mr. Morrison requested that the Board be strengthened with independent, non-executive directors to remedy what he described as the "crisis of confidence" in the company. In a restricted meeting, Mr. Morrison expanded on the points he made at the recent shareholders' meeting, when he blamed undervaluation of the shares, on "suspensions about the company, in particular, the foreign holdings and boardroom changes."

Mr. Morrison suggested that the chairman of Saint Piran, Mr. W. Shaw, might find his position onerous in view of the fact that he is a non-resident. But Mr. Morrison said afterwards that he was not necessarily suggesting Mr. Shaw's resignation.

Mr. Skinner was the only one of the three directors of Saint Piran in the country and able to listen to Mr. Morrison's views. Mr. Skinner made no promises but said that he would report back to the other Board members. Saint Piran is currently seeking a

replacement for the last chief executive who left for "personal reasons."

Mr. Morrison said yesterday that he considered Joseph Sebat, brokers to Saint Piran, had taken "a strong and proper line" with the company. He was optimistic that action would soon be taken to put the company on a sound footing of this sort has continued for some time without result.

Mr. Morrison claims that clients and funds under his management have a 3 per cent of Saint Piran while other shareholders sympathetic to his views hold another 8 per cent.

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## ISSUE NEWS AND COMMENT

Crosby House loss  
—£0.47m loan issue

CROSBY HOUSE, the freight forwarding company which is suing Thomas Cook over the freight business it purchased from Cook, has announced a rights issue of convertible loan stock to raise about £470,000 as well as losses for the last 18 months. Shareholders will be able to subscribe to £3 of 10 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock at par for every five ordinary shares. The stock is convertible between 1980 and 1987 into ordinary shares at a rate of 67 £1 nominal shares for every £100 stock. The conversion price of 149.25p per share. The shares closed yesterday at 140p.

For 1977 the company announced a turnover of £14.4m (£13.64m) and net loss of £163,000 (£152,000) after a tax charge of £8,000 (£4,000). For the half-year to June 30, 1978, there was a loss of £136,000 on turnover of £2.14m. No dividend will be paid. The company must be paying the ordinary shares in respect of 1977, this year, or 1979, nor on the preference shares until the group returns to profitability.

International Investment Trust of Jersey, which owns 240,000 of the issued 782,744 Crosby shares, will take up its full entitlement (£240,000 of loan stock) and has sub-underwritten, through Laurence Prust and Co., the major part of the remainder of the rights issue. IIT could in the course hold more than 50 per cent of the voting capital, but the Takeover Panel has granted an exemption to the rule that would require it to bid for the balance of the shares.

The company's decision to make the rights issue reflects its urgent need for working capital. Compensation from Sri Lanka for its tea estates is trickling in but cash-flow is under pressure. IIT, which originally took an 18 per cent stake in Crosby as an investment, is now actively involved in the management of the company through having Mr. Richard Robinson on the Board.

The Crosby chairman, Mr. J. R. Kealey, said in the rights issue document that 1977 had been a disastrous year for the group, and drew attention to the auditors' qualification in the 1977 accounts, which referred to serious weaknesses in its accounting systems. The losses were struck after payments from the Government

## NEW COURT PROP.

AT 128.3p

The next issue of units in the New Court Property Fund is being made on October 14, at 128.3p per unit. The estimated gross yield is 4.5 per cent.

The fund, sponsored by N. W. Rothschild Asset Management, provides tax exempt pension funds and charities with the opportunity to invest directly in property without getting involved in administration problems, yet not losing the tax advantages. The fund now stands at 126m with units held by 120m pension funds and charities.

Since the previous issue of units at the end of June, the fund has continued to expand its portfolio in the South East. Recent purchases include offices in Central London and Guildford, a shop property in Portsmouth, and warehousing close to the M4 at Reading. The fund is now fully invested in accordance with its targets, the portfolio being split 41 per cent offices, 24 per cent shops, 26 per cent industrial and 9 per cent agriculture.

## R. &amp; J. Pullman confident

WITH THE current upturn in demand at home and the high level of orders on hand, the directors at R. & J. Pullman are confident of another year of increased profits.

The group, whose activities include the manufacture, distribution, and retailing of footwear, is currently consolidating its export business after three years of dramatic increase and efforts are being directed towards the home market where business is picking up considerably. Mr. M. A. Hope, the chairman, states.

For the year to March 31, 1978 taxable profit reached a record £1.08m (£0.97m) on sales ahead to £12.84m (£11.32m) and the net

dividend is raised to 9.04p (8.263p)—as reported on July 28, 1978. Adjusted to a current cost basis along the side guidelines, the dividend was reduced to £962,000 by additional depreciation of £102,000 and extra costs of sales of £100,000 less a gearing adjustment of £83,000.

At year end working capital was up £0.33m (£0.17m). Bank overdrafts were up at £1.89m (£1.30m) and bank loans were £1.30m (£1m) including an advance of £200,000 for a new factory at Blyth which any government grants received are immediately repayable to the bank.

Capital commitments stood at £140,000 (£182,500).

## DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Date	Current payment	Corr. payment	Total of 1978	Total of 1977
Beatson Clark	Dec. 1	2.5	—	—	5.21
Currys	Nov. 1	1	—	—	4.61
Haden Carrier	Nov. 24	3	—	—	7.3
Lane (Percy) Group	Dec. 1	1.2	—	—	3.31
Lydenburg Platinum	Nov. 10	0.85	—	—	2.7
Macallan Glenlivet	—	3.14	—	—	4.6
Marshall Cavendish	Nov. 23	1.32	—	—	4.33
Jefferson Smurfit	Dec. 29	2.48	—	—	7.34

\* Equivalent after allowing for share net except where otherwise stated. † Includes additional 0.048p. ‡ Includes additional 0.048p. § No interim previously paid. ¶ Includes additional 0.048p. \*\* South African cents.

## BICC Limited

has sold 2,869,000 shares of common stock of General Cable Corporation to

## General Cable Corporation

The undersigned acted as financial advisors to BICC Limited in this transaction.

Morgan Grenfell & Co.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

September 29, 1978

## JEFFERSON SMURFIT

## Interim Results to 31st July, 1978

	Half year 1978 £000	% increase	Half year 1977 £000	Year 1977 £000
Sales to Third Parties	92,833	11.6	83,218	175,686
Pre-tax Profit	8,345	22.1	6,832	15,977
Dividend per Share—net	2.812p	13.6	2.475p	7.342p
Earnings per Share	10.5p	19.3	8.8p	19.3p

The Interim Dividend now declared will be paid on 29th December, 1978 to Shareholders on the Register at 1st November, 1978.

Profits after Taxation and Earnings per Share have been re-stated to take account of prior year adjustments in respect of deferred taxation.

The first half of 1978 saw very low levels of price inflation in Paper and Packaging—on occasions negative inflation, and consequently the sales growth being reported is very real.

## Trading

Sales activity in the period was in the main good. Profit margins overall improved from 8.2% to 8.9%. This gain came from productivity rather than price rises.

## Continental Group Inc.—Divestment

The Continental Group Inc. decided on 31st July, 1978 to dispose of its holding of 10,102,153 shares in our Group by way of a

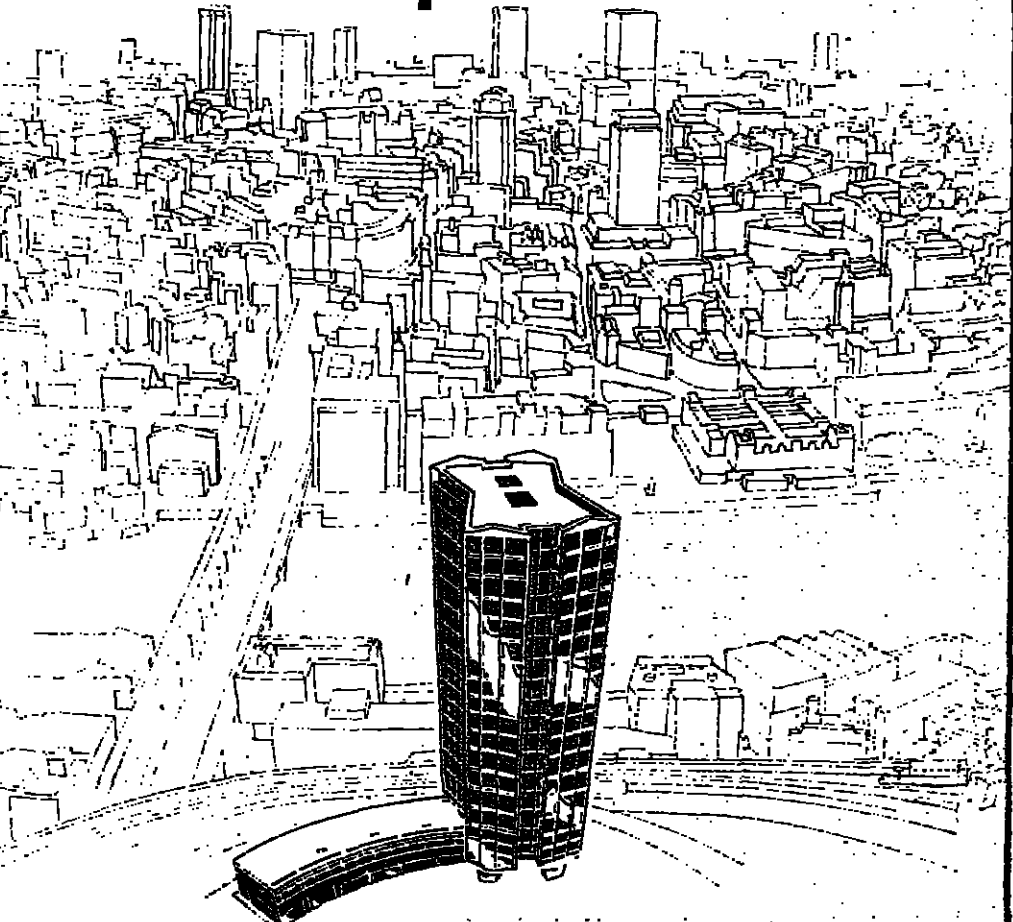
placement in the London market. The company is well covered on the supply of raw materials by its commercial arrangements with SCA—Continental Forest Products and other suppliers.

## The Future

The future is, as ever, difficult to predict and more particularly at the present time as there is a disturbing amount of industrial unrest in both the U.K. and Ireland. We have already lost more plant operating days this year than at any time in the history of the company. Notwithstanding this I continue to see the year as a fair one for the company.



Jefferson Smurfit Group  
Swords Road, Santry, Dublin 9, Ireland.

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see our point of view

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# Jefferson Smurfit up to £8.4m at halftime

WITH SALES ahead 11.6 per cent to £92.8m and margins improved from 8.2 per cent to 9.9 per cent, taxable profit of Jefferson Smurfit Group increased from £6.38m to £8.35m in the July 31, 1978, half-year.

Mr. Michael Smurfit, the chairman, points out that the period saw very low levels of price inflation in paper and packaging—with price decreases on occasions—while the sales growth consequently being very real. The prediction that the full year would be a fair one appears to be well-founded, he says.

Of the increase in margins, he says the gain came from productivity rather than prices but leaves the group short of the desired level.

Tax for the period was £2.28m (£1.93m) and minority interests rose from £0.72m to £1.1m, reflecting the shareholding of Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget in its corrugated companies.

Earnings per share are given at 10.5p against an adjusted 8.8p last time. The interim dividend is raised from 2.475p net per 25p share to 2.912p, and will absorb £1.34m (£1.18m). Last year a 4.867p net final was paid on total profits of £15.98m. Already a gross total of at least 12.5p compared with last year's 11.01p has been forecast.

Mr. Smurfit says that in Ireland the buoyancy of the economy provided a good base for growth during the period. The business climate is expected to remain positive for the rest of the year, and profitability is healthy.

Also, historical investment in

some problem areas is beginning to pay off. The print companies, which fall into this category, are all in profit, publishing is strong and paper and plastic sacks performed well but plastic wide film is having to fight "what appears to be dumping".

Dumping is also a problem in the high density polyethylene sector, and the group is acting on that front. Packaging businesses are busy and, as planned, paper mill profits are well down because of the down-time effect of its major investment which is now being completed.

The distributing division is thriving, and since the annual report the group has purchased a substantial interest in Tele-Rent, a TV rental chain, and bought minority interests in Smurfit Thom Spruyt and Paclene. In the UK only limited volume growth is being enjoyed by packaging companies, partly reflecting the high level of corrugated imports.

Corrugated performed well with some negatives which are being corrected. Flexibles went slowly in the period but losses were eliminated while the production gains in paper and board were negated by losses in waste paper, which stemmed mainly from particularly difficult market conditions.

Cartons were flat, paper merchandising met budget, and the print operation, although small, had a very good half year. A shareholding in Liverpool, which has had additional integration benefits.

Nigerian results were well down, although directors say the second half performance looks as if it will be much better, and will be aided by new plant investment coming on stream.

In the U.S. operating profits did not rebound from the poor second half of 1977 as rapidly as expected. The year began with severe weather which closed plants and sent fuel costs soaring. Second half profits are however expected to exceed those of the same period last year.

The group has recently concluded the acquisition of a corrugated company, Centralia Container Corporation, which is located near St. Louis and will give added value benefits to its corrugated sheet plants at Frankfort, Indiana and Fort Smith, Arkansas. The paper mill will also be benefit.

On the future, they say it is more than ever difficult to predict as there has been a disturbing amount of industrial unrest both in Ireland and the UK. In addition, growing absenteeism is a major problem, but they say ever, Mr. Smurfit sees the year as a fair one for the group.

	Half-year 1977	Half-year 1978
Sales	92.8	104.4
Profit	6.38	8.35
Minority interests	0.72	1.1
Profit before tax	5.66	7.25
Tax	0.72	1.1
Net profit	4.94	6.15
To minorities	1.18	1.1
Extraordinary loss	0.00	0.00
Attributable	3.76	5.05
Dividend	1.37	2.91

See Lex

# Currys advances £0.6m midway

INCLUDING INTEREST receivable of £32,000 compared with £254,000 previously and a £63,000 surplus on the sale of properties against £155,000, pre-tax profit of Currys for the six months to July 26, 1978 advanced from £2.23m to £2.81m.

Cash takings of the electrical appliance, television and radio equipment retailer for the period were £79.78m compared with £65.9m previously.

The profit is after depreciation £1,000 lower at £244,000, staff pension scheme contributions up from £145,000 to £147,000 and a decrease in the provision for unmatured profit on credit trading of £233,000 (£232,000).

Directors say they should be able to look forward to a satisfactory Christmas trading period. The outlook for next year is less certain but they feel confident the all-round strength of the company will stand it in good stead.

The result is subject to tax of £2.01m (£1.69m) and earnings per 25p share are shown ahead from 6.5p to 7.7p.

For the first time an interim dividend is to be paid. The 1p dividend will be paid along with a 0.066782p additional payment for 1977-78. Directors say that all other things being equal the introduction of the interim will mean a corresponding reduction on the final dividend they could consider paying in June next year.

For last year, a 4.53961p dividend was paid on record profit of £10.32m.

See Lex

## BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether dividends are intended or not and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's practice.

**TODAY**

Interests:—Avery, Bankers Investment Trust, Bunt Pulp and Paper, Cape Industries, Estates and General Investments, Sheffield Twist Drill and Steel, Finales—Armstrong Equipment, Ingal Industries, Park Place Investments, Sage Holdings.

**FUTURE DATES**

Interests:—Aberdeen and Bristol Channel Portland Cement Oct. 15  
Aard International Oct. 12  
Dunlop and General Trust Oct. 12  
Fogarty (E.) Oct. 11  
Jerome (S.) Oct. 8  
Sahab Timber Oct. 4  
Shanahan Oct. 10  
Tanks Consolidated Investments Oct. 6  
Tipler Oct. 4

**PLANS**

BPM Oct. 12  
Burland Oct. 12  
Lake and Elliot Oct. 9  
Whitehouse (Gen.) (Eas.) Oct. 5  
/Amended

## George Ingham shows little change

From turnover of £229,409 compared with £253,328 last time taxable profit of George Ingham and Co. (Holdings), worsted spinner, dipped from £22,322 to £21,304 in the first half of 1978. The result includes investment income down from £9,049 to £364. Last year there was a £7,125 loss on the sale of investments. There is no tax charge this time compared with £14,007 last time. Earnings per share are shown at 1.07p (0.42p), and directors say that considering the delicate trading conditions in the textile industry they feel it is in the long-term interest that the group position be improved and no interim dividend be paid.

No interim was paid last year but a final costing £5,000 was paid after the group incurred a £32,209 pre-tax loss for the full year.

Directors say it has been possible in the period to make a reduction in the large stock held at the end of 1977, and consequently there has been a corresponding reduction in the bank overdraft. However, they say the current increase in spending has not been reflected in the textile sector.

## Halved profit for Inchcape Berhad

Group pre-tax profits of Inchcape Berhad, the Singapore subsidiary of Inchcape and Co., declined from Malaysian \$10.1m to \$5.1m in the first half of 1978, including higher losses incurred by the company amounting to \$3.5m compared with \$1.2m.

Turnover improved from \$355.3m to \$393.5m and profits were before a \$0.1m minority profit against a \$0.5m loss and \$1.1m extraordinary credits this time.

Current indications are that pre-tax profits for the second half will be better than those for the first six months, he adds.

For the second half of 1977, the group earned \$12m taxable profits.

## Hume warns of slower growth

Increases in distributable profits of the kind seen in the immediate past at Hume Holdings cannot be expected to continue says Mr. J. K. Dick, the chairman. Even so, he forecasts another increase for 1978/79.

"For an investment trust to continue to expand its disposable revenues as an annual rate of approximately a third or more is not really a target which it can set itself while still maintaining conservative investment policies leading to steady improvement in income dividend and capital values," he comments.

"Every now and again I think we can certainly hope that circumstances will be such that this will prove rather too pedestrian a view but I think those occasions should be regarded as exceptions rather than the general rule."

The extension of dividend restriction must have some downstream consequences for any investment trust company. However, he remains reasonably confident for the year.

The group associated banking company Hume Corporation is still obtaining tax relief from losses brought forward and will continue to do so at least for the current year he points out.

After disposal of Scottish Life Hume Properties, net asset value at September 30, 1978, stood at 101.5p. This can be broken down as to UK equities 49.1p overseas equities 14.1p; long dated UK gilts 19.5p; property investments 2.5p; property sites held for development 1.1p; banking and instalment credit 1.7p; miscellaneous trading subsidiaries 1.3p and cash and short dated gilts 5.5p.

Mr. Dick says that the directors do not regard such a large investment in the long end of the gilt market as necessarily a permanent feature and when the time appears right they policy would be to switch substantially into equities.

For the year to June 30, 1978, as reported August 10, 1978, revenue before tax was up at £2.18m (£2.05m) and after tax 32 per cent higher at £1.5m. The total dividend was raised to

4.58375p (3.08675p) and the interim for the current year is 1.875p.

At year end liquidity was up £1.19m (£0.46m) with bank overdrafts cut to £586 (£202.021).

Meeting, Winchester House, EC, on October 26, at noon.

## Increased loss at Bibby & Baron

The pre-tax loss of Bibby and Baron (Holdings) increased ten-fold to £130,000 in the May 31 1978 half-year from turnover ahead £382,000 to £13.12m.

The result is after depreciation of £308,000 (£307,000), debenture interest of £16,000 (£16,000) and other interest of £157,000 (£207,000) and includes associate profits of £25,000 (£11,000). There is a £50,000 tax charge (nil) and last year there was a £2,000 extraordinary credit. For all last year a £107,000 loss was incurred.

Directors say a major reorganisation of the company's paper bag subsidiary has taken place over the past few months and it will be some time before it is completed. The losses of this subsidiary have already been substantially reduced, and further benefits should accrue in 1979.

The company is a subsidiary of Low and Bonar Group.

## G. T. Japan investment policy

Since the end of its last financial year, G.T. Japan Investment Trust has made currency borrowings totalling US\$4m to take further advantage of the existing conditions in the Japanese market, and at the same time there has been a substantial reduction of the investments held via the investment currency premium.

The directors propose to remain fully committed to the Japanese February 15, 1979.

## Improvement at John James

In the first half of the current year, both turnover and profits of John James Group of Companies have improved in comparison with the same period last year, although margins continue to be under constant pressure.

Franked investment is also improving and if this trend continues, the directors hope to recommend an increase in both interim and final dividends.

## FOLKES HEFO

Directors of John Folkes Hefo propose the early repayment of the remaining £32,309 nominal of the 7.5 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock at par on February 15, 1979.

## Grimshawe Hldgs. profit for year

FOLLOWING A gain from £7,317 to £12,649 in midway profits, Grimshawe Holdings, the industrial group reports a turnaround from a £28,361 deficit to a pre-tax surplus of £28,320 for the year ended April 30, 1978.

Turnover was lower at £3.02m against £3.58m, owing to the closing or sale of unprofitable outlets and the sale of Mint circuits, where the group had a 60 per cent interest.

During the year the bank debt was reduced by £300,000. "Nevertheless the total debt still due to the Midland Bank is a matter of continuing concern," says Mr. Thomas Kenny, the chairman. "If that problem could be materially alleviated it would make possible

the redevelopment of the company," says Kenny.

Conversations started recently with the Midland Bank which may provide a solution, the chairman adds, and he expects to report the outcome of these at the annual meeting.

Although the bank debt is a deterrent, the group acquired Aspek, importer of specialised parts for the ophthalmic industry, in August, 1978, at a cost of £225,000. "The Midland Bank consented to provide funds for the acquisition," Mr. Kenny tells members.

Pre-tax profits of Aspek for the October 31, 1977, year were £117,000 and £106,000 for the 10 months to August 31, 1978. "This

is not a major acquisition but it is a good indicator of where we may be going," says the chairman.

For the 1977-78 year there was a group tax charge of £4,896 (£16,123 credit) and stated earnings are 2.4p per 20p share, compared with a 2.6p loss last time. Again no dividend is to be paid—the last payments were in respect of 1972-73.

	1977-78	1978-77
Turnover	3,021,547	3,577,135
Trading profit	23,321	21,845
Rental income	25,222	106,688
Interest payable	98,829	107,794
Profit before tax	24,593	24,541
Tax charge	4,896	16,123
Net profit	21,697	8,418
Minority interests	3,385	3,385
Extraordinary credit	54,874	65,137
Retained	75,858	39,224
Loss	—	55,310

(£40,820) net surplus on sale of subsidiaries, £45,063 (nil) surplus on disposal of properties, £1,601 (£2,251) net adjustments to transfer of provisions made in previous years.

He reports that sales by Managers while not buoyant were satisfactory and profitable. Towards the end of the year it decided to service its larger customers only—the small accounts were too expensive to maintain—this resulted in a decline in turnover but with a sizeable saving in wage and related costs.

Mr. Kenny points out that the group's rental income of £88,257 (£106,688) almost matches interest charges amounting to £98,829 against £167,704. Rents are due for upward review in the next two years, while lower interest rates have been helpful but the possibility of lower rates continuing is not encouraging.

The chairman recalls that in previous reviews he advised shareholders that the group had contingent assets which would not be taken to credit until the cash was received. A small amount, £33,000, was received in the year to April, 1978, and this exceeded the loss on the sale of the group's interest in Mini-circuits.

In June, 1978, it received £205,000 and this will be included in the profits for the year to April, 1979. While not guaranteeing a profit for next year, this income will make a profit a near certainty, Mr. Kenny reports. "A further £166,000 may be receivable but not immediately."

The surplus on the sale of let units amounts to £45,000 and additional surpluses are likely to be earned in the next few months.

Mr. Kenny says: "There are some good reasons to expect that I may continue to report in this more hopeful vein; it is a happy change."

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#### INTERIM STATEMENT

The unaudited results for the year to 30th June 1978 and corresponding figures are as follows:—

	Half-year to 30.6.78	Half year to 30.6.77	Year to 31.12.77
Turnover	£'000 1,226	£'000 1,116	£'000 2,288
Profit before taxation	110	66	214
Taxation	57	34	111
Profit after taxation	53	32	103
Earnings per ordinary share	2.4p	1.4p	4.5p

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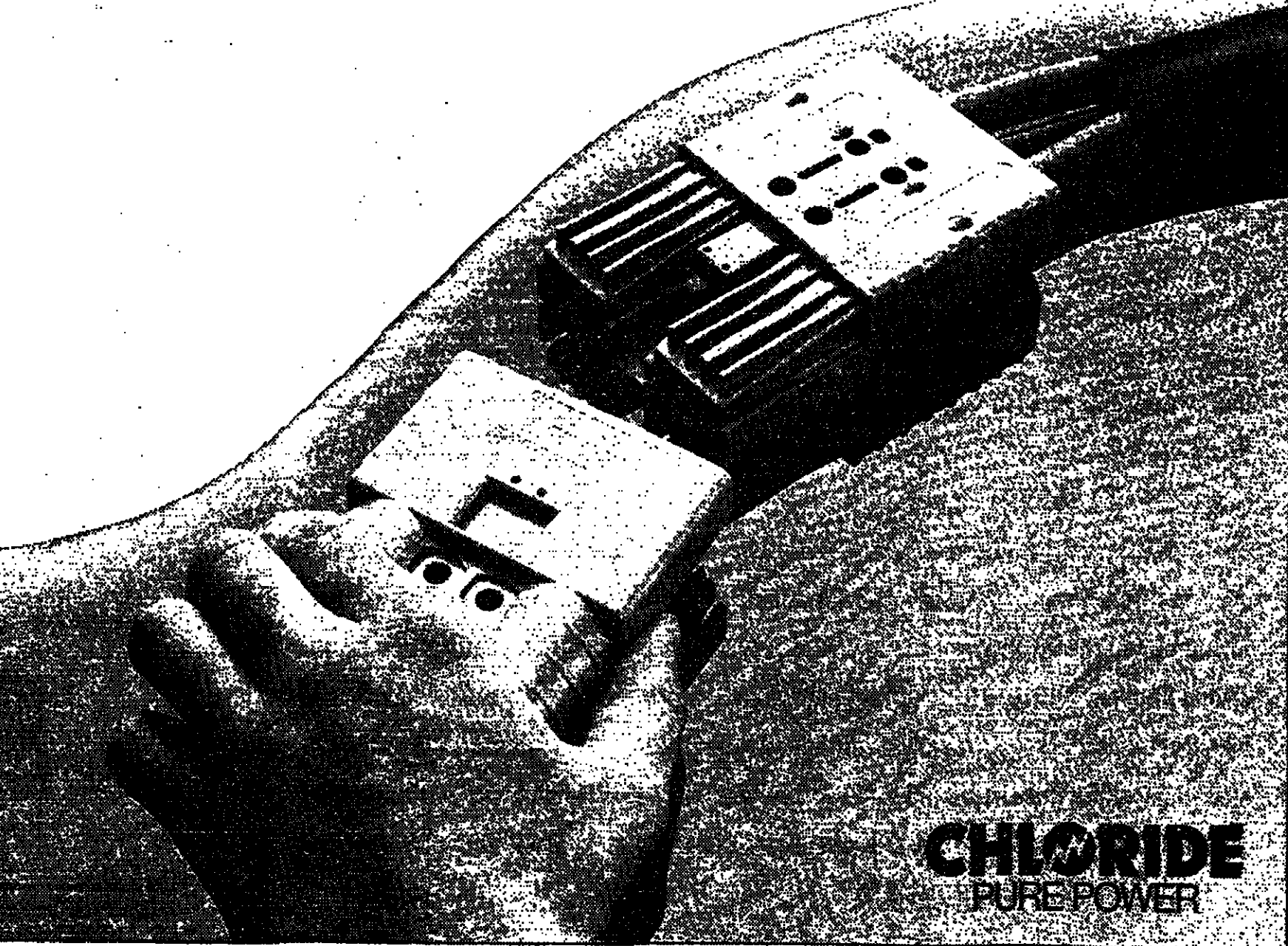
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## BIDS AND DEALS

## Amey Roadstone moves into industrial sand

IN A move to enter the industrial sand market, Amey Roadstone, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Consolidated Goldfields, is paying £4.5m in cash and shares for the privately-owned Buckland Industries.

On top of this Amey Roadstone may have to pay up to a further £1m depending upon Buckland's future profit performance.

However, the group said last night that the real cost of the deal is considerably less than the stated figures as it is also acquiring significant cash balances and reserves as part of the Buckland deal.

Although the group does have a tiny amount of industrial sand interests this will be its first major introduction to this market. Annual production of industrial sand in the UK is thought to be around 8m to 10m tonnes and Buckland is estimated to have around 7 per cent of this market.

Pre-tax profits of the privately owned concern are currently estimated to be running at around £7m to £10m a year.

To meet the cost of the deal Consolidated Gold Fields is issuing just over 1m of its own shares. Judging by the recent performance of the group's shares this would indicate that the cash element of the deal is something above £2.5m.

Buckland operates five pits—two near Reigate, in Surrey, and three near Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

## FINANCE FOR INDUSTRY

A new company, ICFC Corporate Finance, has been formed by Finance for Industry to handle the group's corporate advisory services. These were formerly dealt with by the corporate finance department of Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation and Scottish Industrial Finance.

The new company identifies FFI's merchant banking advisory operations as being separate from the Group's investment activities carried out through ICFC, with its 18 branch offices serving small and medium-sized firms. Finance Corporation for Industry and Finance for Shipping.

## RENWICK GROUP

The Renwick Group has completed the purchase of 5 per cent of the outstanding 9 per cent, which it does not already own, of the capital of Marine Projects (Plymouth) from Mr. David King, the managing director of Marine.

The original agreement (of February 1973) has been amended (i) to defer the purchase of the

outstanding minority in equal instalments to September 1978, August 1979, and August 1980; and (ii) to allow the consideration to be satisfied in shares or cash as may be agreed between the parties.

Consideration for the 3 per cent in respect of the September 1978 instalment amounted to £263,638 which has been satisfied by the issue of 638,301 ordinary shares of Renwick, representing 10.45 per cent of the enlarged ordinary capital—598,001 of the shares having subsequently been placed for Mr. King with institutions.

## STEETLEY TO MERGE CANADIAN INTERESTS

Steetley Company's wholly-owned Canadian subsidiary, Steetley of Canada (Holdings) is to be bid \$24.8m for the 26 per cent minority of Steetley Industries it does not already own.

The reason for the bid is that one of its quarries supplies material to S.C. (Holdings) on the same site. The management of the combined operation would be made easier if the interests of outside shareholders in one of them did not have to be continually borne in mind.

The Canadian stock exchange quotation of Steetley Industries has been of no use to the group because it is too thinly traded and lowly valued to be used for acquisitions.

The offer, worth C\$19 per share, is subject to clearance from the Canadian Foreign Investment Review Agency, as well as the Bank of England and the Treasury.

## YULE CATTO STAKE IN MARINA

Plantation and industrial group Yule Catto has purchased the fixed and current assets of Hartford Marina from the present partners in a deal worth nearly £400,000.

The purchase is being made through a mixture of cash and Yule Catto shares. The Hartford Marina partners are to receive £125,000 in cash, and will be issued 410,000 Yule Catto shares.

Hartford Marina's partners have agreed to retain two thirds of the shares for at least twelve months.

The marina is near Huntingdon and consists of a 40 acre basin opening on to the Great Ouse. Yule said yesterday that it believed that the site was capable

of "considerable expansion" and complemented its existing marina at Cobb's Quay, Poole, Dorset.

## ELLIS &amp; EVERARD (CHEMICALS)

Ellis and Everard (Chemicals) has acquired Domestic Chemical Company of Exeter, from Thomas Bordwick and Sons, Domestic, with a turnover in excess of £1m per annum, distributes industrial and domestic chemicals in South Western England.

The product range of the two companies is similar but not identical and it is envisaged that there will be some mutual advantage in gaining access to some of the more specialised products handled by Domestic and Ellis and Everard (Chemicals).

The acquisition is intended to strengthen the branch network of Ellis and Everard (Chemicals), bringing the number of distribution points to 18.

## NEW DRILL PIPE STOCKHOLDER

A/S Norem is the majority shareholder of a new drill pipe stockholding company called Oil Country Supplies. The company will differ from most others in this field in that it will hold stock as a principal rather than acting only as a broker.

The managing director, Mr. C. G. Patrick Kehely, owns 20 per cent of the equity, an American merchant bank 5 per cent, while Norem has 75 per cent. The paid up capital is only £1,000 and most of the capital employed will be in the form of a loan from Norem of at least £1m.

Mr. Kehely was operations director of GKN Oilfield Services before forming Oil Country.

## ASSOCIATES DEALS

On Thursday, Hill Samuel sold 53,200 Courtaulds at 111p on behalf of discretionary investment clients.

Jacobson Townsley bought for Raybeck 2,300 Bourne and Hollingsworth at 26p, and on Friday bought 15,000 at the same price.

On Friday Vantona Group bought 50,000 J. Compton Sons and Webb (Hull) at 65p. Holding is now 1,825,500 shares (10.82 per cent).

Cazenove purchased 10,000 C. H. Goldrei, Foucaud and Son ordinary shares at 104½p on behalf of Northern Foods.

Cazenove purchased 12,500 Dawson International ordinary shares at 191p on behalf of Woodbourne Nominees, nominees for the Smith family, and 12,500 at 191p on behalf of associates of Dawson International.

## Another move in Compton battle

The struggle for control of the market, increasing its holdings from a near 9 per cent to almost 11 per cent. This however may be only a tactical move, the Carrington's offer valued the company at around £10m.

Two offers for Compton are already on the table with Courtaulds currently outbidding Carrington. Yesterday's move raises several possibilities including a further offer from Carrington or even a potential bid from Vantona, whose original interest sparked off the current takeover battle.

A more unlikely possibility is that a completely new contender has arrived on the scene but even this cannot be ruled out.

The Compton directors—who earlier this month agreed to accept Courtaulds' terms valuing the company at £11.5m—are now telling shareholders to hold fire until a further announcement is made. This is likely to come later this week.

Meanwhile Vantona, whose original approach was spurned by the Compton directors, has very recently been buying amounts of Compton shares in

## CROSSLEY BLDG.

The Ewate Corporation offer for Crossley Building Products has been accepted in respect of 98.39 per cent of the ordinary shares for which the offer was made, and 98.67 per cent of the preference. The balance will be acquired compulsorily. The offer remains open.

## BENLOX BUYS

Benlox Holdings has entered into an agreement with Park Place Investments to acquire for £40,250 the capital of the Cynosure House, whose sole asset is the ownership of a short lease on a Park Place investment in the company to 210,000 shares.

## BMCT raises holding in McNeill Group to 23%

Mr. Graham Ferguson Lacey—who jointly owned Birmingham and Midland Counties Trust recently launched an abortive takeover bid for Weston Evans, the Lancashire engineering concern—was yesterday appointed chairman of McNeill Group, the troubled Irish construction outfit.

Immediately Mr. Lacey warned of redundancies among the group's 850 employees and said that it may be necessary to close McNeill's construction equipment distribution division.

Mr. Lacey said that it would take three months to carry out a review and reorganisation of the group's activities. "This," he said, "will include the sale or closure of less-making subsidiaries in order to curtail the significant trading losses."

He is joined on the McNeill board by his partner Mr. Cecil McBride. The two men control BMCT, which yesterday increased its stake in McNeill from 19.32 per cent to 23 per cent— with the acquisition of a parcel of shares from McNeill director Mr. John Guinness who intends to retire from the Board.

Mr. Lacey said that BMCT had no plans to increase its stake above the present level—at least until the reorganisation is complete. If this is satisfactorily concluded then BMCT will consider the injection of a further £1m in new equity capital.

## SHARE STAKES

Royal Worcester-Rothschild Investment Trust has purchased further 190,000 ordinary shares taking holding to 1,615,500 (approximately 32.3 per cent).

Ley's Foundries and Engineering—Mr. F. D. Ley, director, has disposed of 35,000 ordinary shares.

Wilson Peck—Mrs. D. Y. Brown, as at September 12, was increased in 62,500 ordinary shares (5.93 per cent).

Amber Day Holdings—Trusts in which Mr. R. Metzger has an interest bought 60,000 shares.

Godfrey Davis — Rothschild Investment Trust is now beneficial owner of 2,495,000 ordinary shares (20.63 per cent).

Amalgamated Metal Corporation—Preussag AG now holds 4,883,370 ordinary shares (76.7 per cent).

Dufrenoy Bismant — Mr. C. Attwood, director, sold 14,397 ordinary shares.

Drake and Scull Holdings—Mr. C. Nalavez disposed of 50,000 ordinary shares on September 21, and 250,000 ordinary shares on September 22. These disposals were made from his non-beneficial holding. Sale price was 35p.

Cantors—Mr. S. C. Cantor, director, disposed of 25,000 "A" ordinary shares. Mr. J. Jeffrey, director, disposed of 25,000 "A" ordinary shares from his beneficial family holdings.

Hambros Investment Trust—A subsidiary of Hambros has purchased 132,326 ordinary shares. Hambros and subsidiaries are beneficially interested in 2,405,250 (9.01 per cent).

Jatel—Camellia Investments has purchased 286,000 ordinary shares increasing holding to 1,220,846 (80.48 per cent).

## Enlarged Linfood yet to see merger benefits

ALL HAS not been plain sailing at the enlarged Linfood Holdings since the merger in May with Wheatstreak Distribution and Trading.

Lord Klesin, the chairman of Linfood, says in his annual statement the picture resulting from the merger has been initially less favourable than was expected because Wheatstreak's results were adversely affected by two important non-recurring items, the opening costs of a new hypermarket and substantial losses in branches of its Spanish subsidiary.

Energetic steps have been taken to rectify the position— including the closing of plainly unprofitable branches in Spain—and there are indications in internal accounts that Wheatstreak has effected a recovery and is again trading profitably.

In the year to February 25, 1978 Wheatstreak's profit fell from £2.1m to £3.1m and in the merger documents Mr. S. Aylett Moore, the chairman, said the group was moving back to more acceptable margins in the delivered trade and in turnarounds. The hypermarkets were running profitably and despite the preliminary costs of the opening of the Bristol Carrefour in May, they were expected to produce a profit for the year.

Lord Klesin now says that it should not be assumed that all the problems of the group have been caused by the High Street price war and that competitive trading conditions have as yet been overcome. But it can be confidently expected that the merged group will in due course demonstrate that the rationale for an enlarged group was totally valid.

Once measures have been taken to consolidate the resources of the group the buying power will obviously enable it to take a leading place among the large organisations.

"It is for that reason that your board is confident that with the addition of the hypermarkets the group will be in a strengthened position and able to obtain the advantages that in these competitive days are available only to the larger organisations."

Lord Klesin says that the Spar group maintained its market share in the April 29, 1978 year

and the three main divisions increased their volume.

On the retail side the original Linfood group now has 274 outlets with the largest store opened last year, near Oxford, now trading profitably. With wholesaling the frozen food distribution capabilities, while in the catering division volume declined after management decided to avoid pursuing contracts which would result in losses in cash and carry. The group has concentrated on sales of non-foods and catering supplies to a variety of other kinds of small businesses following slow sales growth to the small independent grocery retailers.

As previously reported taxable profit at Linfood declined from £5.81m to £5.18m on sales ahead from £20.5m to £27.41m.

At September 4, Guinness Peat Group, of which Lord Klesin is executive chairman, held 17.73 per cent of shares.

Meeting, Winchester House, London, Oct. 25 at 10.30 am.

## DM2m loan for F &amp; C Eurotrust

TO TAKE advantage of the Bank of England concession over the repayment of foreign money borrowed to buy bonds issued by EEC institutions, F & C Eurotrust has negotiated a five year DM2m loan from Williams and Glyn's Bank.

The concession, introduced at the beginning of 1978, allows loans for this purpose to be repaid with sterling at spot rather than investment currency rate.

The loan, which at June 30 rates was equivalent to £518,807, brought the company's total foreign currency loans at that date up to £1.91m (£1.48m).

In 1977-78 the company had use of £2m multi-currency loan for the full year for the first time. This was reflected in sharply increased sales.

interest charges of £102,254 (£53,641).

Meeting, 1-2, Laurence Pountney Hill, EC, on October 24, at noon.

## Macallan Glenlivet over £0.4m

A WARNING that some rise in new whisky prices appears inevitable comes from the directors of Macallan-Glenlivet, distillers with the announcement of a marginal growth in the company's taxable earnings from £362,000 to £402,000 for the year to July 31, 1978.

Profit was in line with the forecast of a modest increase made at half-time when the surplus was better at £291,000 (£240,000).

With further rises in operating costs already indicated, higher prices would be needed to ensure a reasonable rate of profit.

The Scottish whisky industry is once more moving ahead although at a lower rate of growth than in the past decade, and the company is confident that it will benefit from the general advance.

Group profit last year rose from £285,000 to £362,000 but fell down on the record £481,000 seen in 1975-76.

Tax took £12,000 (£67,000) leaving a net balance of £350,000 (£295,000) for earnings per share of 19.2p (14.45p). A net dividend of 3.138p lifts the total to 8.138p (4.6p).

The retained profit emerged at £351,000 (£197,000).

Steady progress was made during the first half in the sale of "The Macallan" as a single malt and stocks give scope for a further growth in 1978-79.

The easing of demand for high protein animal feedstuffs continued throughout the year following the excellent harvest of 1977, and this reduced the subsidiary's contribution to the group profit.

A slight hardening of the market is now becoming apparent which should lead to a more satisfactory level of prices during the coming winter and spring, the directors say.

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## Cooper Industries Limited

Record pre-tax profit in difficult year

Year to 30th April	1978	1977
Group Turnover	£24,716,000	£20,295,000
Pre-tax profit*	£1,832,000	£1,778,000
Net tangible assets per share	22.9p	20.4p
Dividends per share	0.885p	0.792p

\*before extraordinary items

Year to 30th April 1979

"The year has started extremely well and I anticipate a considerable increase in profits for the year."

Mr. Charles Cooper, Chairman

Copies of the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th April, 1978 can be obtained from the Company's Registered Office at 2 Castle Hill, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 4PS.







## INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND COMPANY NEWS

## Further earnings boost for American Standard

BY TERRY BYLAND

THE PRESIDENT of American Standard, Mr. William A. Marquardt, told a Press conference in London yesterday that he expects group earnings for 1978 to exceed \$7 a share. This compares with \$3.62 a share for 1977 and adds strength to the earlier prediction that earnings would be "substantially higher" this year. Sales for the group, which operates in building products, transportation, construction and mining, and security systems, are on target for the previous forecast that they would exceed \$2bn in 1978.

Losses on foreign exchange, which hit the group in the third quarter by \$4m to \$5m are expected to be "slight" in the fourth quarter of the current year. At the beginning of June, share earnings on a pro forma basis had already reached \$6.82. Total revenue for the same

period stood at \$1,964m and earnings at \$88m. Looking ahead to next year, Mr. Marquardt said that sales and earnings would be at good levels, if not showing the same percentage improvements of the past. He expects earnings to be above the rate of inflation in the U.S., even after allowing for a conservative estimate of a "flat" performance by the national economy in 1979.

He expects to report a positive cash flow in that year, for which the group has planned for a 10 per cent increase in capital spending. American Standard's earnings base remains firmly established in the U.S., whence some 55 per cent of profits came last year. European operations, which include plants manufacturing truck brakes systems in Germany, Austria, France and Italy, produced 30 per cent of group

earnings in 1977. Last year Standard acquired Clayton Dewandre of the U.K. The transportation and industrial products division, which produced some 34 per cent of world wide earnings in 1977, when its results were described as "excellent", should have even better figures this year.

In the U.S. sales of freight cars and switching and signalling equipment should increase. On the European side, the heavy truck sector remains sluggish but the addition of Clayton Dewandre should expand group business. Over the period from 1976 to date, expansion of the European heavy truck division, which manufactures WABCO braking systems for trucks, has pushed up sales from 402,000 to 420,000 (estimated) units. Over the same period, output of U.S. freight cars rose from 54,000 to 60,000.

## Merrill Lynch in merger talks

By Stewart Fleming

NEW YORK, Oct. 2. MERRILL LYNCH, the largest U.S. brokerage company, has announced that it is discussing a merger with Amic Corporation, a North Carolina-based insurance concern. Amic is a holding company that owns American Mortgage Insurance, whose main business is to provide insurance to lenders against loss on residential first mortgage loans.

Its subsidiaries are licensed to offer insurance services in 43 states including the District of Columbia. In 1977 Amic's net premium written amounted to about \$18m and net income was \$6.7m. Merrill Lynch, which in terms of its size and capital base dominates Wall Street's stockbroking community, has been diversifying aggressively in recent years.

Last month, it revealed that its next major diversification would be into the residential property sector. It said that it was negotiating with "several" residential real estate companies whose acquisition would mark the company's "initial entry into the rapidly growing residential brokerage industry."

The company said that such a move would take it another step closer to its goal of providing a full financial service. It has already expanded its operations into international banking, life insurance and providing services which are similar to commercial banking in some cases.

Its move into the real estate business was in 1968 when it acquired a mortgage banking and property management operation. Last year it acquired a business which helps executives relocate, helping in buying and selling properties and making moving arrangements.

Dean Witter lifts payment NEW YORK, Oct. 2. DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS Organisation, the securities broker, said its Board has raised the quarterly dividend from 15 to 20 cents per share, payable November 1.

In the year to August 31, net earnings increased from \$12.6m to \$18.6m. Revenues of \$412.6m compared with \$28.6m in 1977. Fourth quarter net of \$8.1m on revenues of \$143.9m compared with net earnings of \$2.6m on revenues of \$62.7m. Net income per share for the quarter was \$1.02 against 56 cents.

Gaming stocks The New York Stock Exchange is removing certain gaming stocks from its list of those required to have special initial capital and capital requirements. Reuter reports from New York.

Copperweld optimism Corporation expects earnings for the year to be about a quarter of last year's April projection of \$5.8m or \$1.50 a share, AP-DJ reports from Pittsburgh.

But the company noted that a planned restructuring of its Bimetall group, which resulted in a \$8.1m net charge in the second quarter will hold full year net well below last year's total of \$16.3m or \$2.91 a share.

The company said this year's earnings should exceed expected levels due to better than expected demand for specialty alloy and carbon steel bars, improvement in Bimetall's performance, and some what stronger demand for Bimetall products abroad.

Copperweld also credited "the effectiveness of its corporate reorganisation which restructuring has resulted in three main operating groups."

## Amsterdam Bourse agrees major trading extension

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 2.

A MAJOR shake-up of stock market practice is to be carried out by the Amsterdam Bourse. The measures, aimed at creating a more efficient pricing system, will come into effect on January 1.

They will include a considerable extension of the number of shares that can be traded within official market hours, and will involve changes in dealing procedure for large lines of stock. The Bourse authorities may also introduce a new commission structure.

The number of stocks which will be traded throughout the entire one and three quarter hour official opening hours will be doubled to about 40. At the same time shares and bonds will also be traded during pre-market and after-Bourse hours — from 10 to 11.30 am and from 1.15 to 4.30 pm.

The aim is to establish the exchange firmly as the central market place for securities business and to expand trading hours available for out of hours business but it is thought to be considerable. These changes are expected to lead to the more efficient pricing of shares. Out of hours orders must now be carried out through a jobber on the floor of the Bourse.

Large orders may only be transacted without involving a jobber when there is no danger that they could lead to considerable disruption of the market. At least a quarter of the transactions must be carried out at the same time as the official opening hours will be doubled to about 40. At the same time shares and bonds will also be traded during pre-market and after-Bourse hours — from 10 to 11.30 am and from 1.15 to 4.30 pm.

as deals worth more than F1 500,000 (\$297,000) in one stock — to the Exchange Association. The majority of stocks will continue to be traded in two sessions — 45 minutes at the start of official trading and the last half hour of official trading. These latest moves to expand the Amsterdam Bourse come at a time when the exchange has recently been setting new trading records. Turnover in August was F1 4bn (\$1,399m), the fourth month in which the F1 4bn level has been reached or exceeded.

The record month was June with turnover of F1 4,320m. Share turnover alone was F1 2,090m in August — only the second month in the exchange's history when share turnover has exceeded F1 2bn. June turnover was a record F1 2,550m.

Swiss permit Texon tax probe THE SWISS Federal Appeals for tax evasion against the defendants in the criminal proceedings. A request to investigate Texon's debtors and creditors named in a list forming part of the documentation was rejected. This decision has now been reversed by the federal court's judgment.

A company has been set up in Meyrin, near Geneva, to continue the operations of the Swiss charter airline SA de Transport Aerien (SATA). To be known as Compagnie de Transport Aerien (CTA), the new undertaking will begin its activities in November with a provisional capital of SwFr 6m provided by Swissair, which will also advance the same amount for operating costs.

The new CTA company is not, as partly expected, to take over the assets and liabilities of SATA, which is in financial difficulties. It will purchase the airline's Caravelle aircraft, however, and take over part of the SATA personnel. Flights with the three Caravelles will begin next month under the new management. As soon as possible, a majority of the capital of CTA — whose definitive name will be announced later — will pass into western Swiss hands.

Siemens seeks U.S. issue SIEMENS is to become the first West German company to issue commercial paper in the United States market. It was announced today that the bonds will be issued by Siemens U.S. subsidiary, Siemens Capital Corporation.

The bonds will be offered to the public through A. G. Becker and The Lehman Commercial Paper Inc.

Meanwhile the group reported that whereas orders had shown satisfactory growth throughout the entire year during the 1977-78 business year, which ended on September 30, performance had varied in individual sectors.

DM issues more active PRICES OF Deutsche Mark denominated bonds moved up today as a quarter of a Westdeutsche Landesbank were confirmed the maturity of the bonds will be 12 years and indicated coupon 6 1/2 per cent. Final terms are expected on October 13. It was also confirmed that Marudai Foods would be buying interest in Swissair, a move which has been the case in recent months seems to be behind this increase in prices.

Swiss investors are anticipating an improvement of the Deutsche Mark against the Swiss franc, a movement which was beginning to show signs of materialising already today. One Deutsche Mark was worth SwFr 0.823 at the close yesterday against 0.799 last Friday.

The private placement for ISCOR was priced at 100 1/2 today, as indicated by the lead manager Morgan Grenfell. The conversion premium was set at 10.2 per cent.

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## Losses continue at Snia Viscosa

By Our Own Correspondent

MILAN, Oct. 2. FURTHER EVIDENCE of the critical state of the synthetic fibres industry, particularly in the synthetic fibres sector, came from the first half report of Snia Viscosa and ANIC. Snia Viscosa, the synthetic fibres and armaments group controlled by Montedison, losses continued in the 1978 half and were concentrated in its fibres division, which accounts for nearly half of its turnover. Snia's synthetic fibres rose 6.1 per cent in cash but this masked a fall in actual volume of sales.

ANIC, the chemicals subsidiary of the state-owned group, ENI, also continued to run a heavy deficit in the half, in spite of an 18 per cent rise in group sales, which reached 1,589bn (around \$720m). ANIC said it expects heavy losses for the rest of the year, implying the probability of another reduction in its capital.

Both ANIC and Snia are planning measures to strengthen their fibres operations, to reduce losses, but the fibres industry in general is likely to be particularly hard hit by the prospective banning of a strategy to return to the part of the EEC Commission of a planned European fibre cartel.

Snia Viscosa and Montedison have announced plans to merge their synthetic fibres activities in a separate company, as part of a strategy to return to the part of the EEC Commission of a planned European fibre cartel.

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## \$500m investment by Walt Disney

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.

WALT DISNEY Productions will include participation by General Motors, Exxon (U.S.A.) AT and Kraft Inc. He said that Disney has received letters of intent from business or government interests in 10 other countries to participate in the project.

The experimental prototype community of tomorrow will be operated separately from the adjacent Walt Disney World. "Future World" will be a series of pavilions displaying future technologies for energy, transportation, the land, seas, space, life and health and other subjects.

In its first phase "the world showcase" will have 10 nations participating with additional countries expected to join in a second phase.

The existing Walt Disney World has recorded a seven-year attendance of nearly 90m visitors, and the new theme parks are expected to attract a further 5m to 10m visitors in their first year.

The new parks, including the additions, will represent a total investment of more than \$1bn, Mr. Walker said. AP-DJ

Reed Paper back in the black By Robert Gibbins MONTREAL, Oct. 2. REED PAPER LTD., the troubled Canadian arm of Reed International of the U.K., was profitable for the first time in eight consecutive quarters during the third quarter this year. Mr. Donald MacIver, the president said, but the company does not expect to show a profit for the whole year.

It has sold its decorative products group to the parent and also its interests in two western pulp mills for a total of just over \$300m cash. Newsprint demand has been strong and fine papers have improved substantially. Lumber packaging has improved and pulp has become stable with further improvement in 1979 likely.

However, the Dryden operations in Ontario have "immense" problems to be overcome. Negative cash flows will continue for several more years. The pulp mill will need very large capital spending because it is so old.

Debt is stable and was improving through the third quarter. The policy was to reduce debt further by the proceeds of asset sales. The pigments business is still for sale. Talks with a view to the sale of Reed International's 57 per cent interest in Reed Paper are still at a preliminary stage.

Latest tax loss carry-forwards now total more than C\$70m (US\$85.5m.).

Abitibi extends offer The Abitibi Paper Company of Toronto is going ahead with its C\$23 cash per share offer for the minority holding in Price Company, writes Robert Gibbins from Montreal.

Abitibi, until last week, owned 58 per cent of Price, and on Friday agreed to buy just over 1m shares held by Consolidated-Bathurst at C\$23 per share.

Abitibi expects to mail the formal offer to the remaining Price shareholders within the next 15 days.

Tenneco loses plea The American Supreme Court has denied a request by Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company and its parent Tenneco that it should become involved in a contract dispute between the shipbuilder and the American Navy. AP-DJ reports from Washington.

The court let stand a Federal Appeals Court ruling reinstating a suit by the Navy to force Newport News to complete work on a nuclear frigate.

## Wells Fargo sees third quarter gain of 11%

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.

WELLS FARGO of San Francisco, expects third quarter earnings to be up more than 11 per cent from the same period of 1977.

In a news release, Mr. Richard P. Cooley, president of the bank holding company, said he did not expect the third quarter gain "to match the 36 per cent growth rate of the first half of 1978 over the first half of 1977. However, we do anticipate healthy earnings growth for the final quarters of this year as well as for 1979." AP-DJ

Sandoz U.S. seeks \$40m SANDOZ U.S. plans to issue up to \$40m of commercial paper in the U.S. through the First Boston Corporation.

Sandoz said it expects the first offering to be made sometime this month. The paper, which will have the typical one-to-270-day maturities, will not be guaranteed by its Swiss parent company, Sandoz Limited.

The paper will instead be backed by a \$40m irrevocable bank revolving credit agreement which provides that the bank will repay the paper should the company be unable to do so.

Sandoz indicated that a primary reason for seeking the bank credit was that it is a fairly new company, having been formed late in 1976, and it wanted to become known to the U.S. financial community.

In addition, it noted that bank-supplied paper should result in some savings for the company since it tends to command a premium over non-bank supported issues.

Reuter Sears Roebuck profits to rise ZURICH, Oct. 2. MR. JACK KINCANNON, senior vice-president of Sears Roebuck and Co., told a meeting of Swiss bankers and businessmen today that the company's earnings per share in the second half of this year would be better than in the first.

The meeting was arranged to mark the introduction of Sears Roebuck shares on Swiss Stock Exchange. Herr Hans Kessler, director of the Swiss Bank Corporation, told the meeting

that Sears had picked the right moment to introduce its stock to Swiss investors because currency stability measures announced on Sunday by the Swiss National Bank had strengthened the dollar today.

Sears Roebuck had first half net of \$956.16bn or \$1.11 a share, down from last year's first half net of \$360.9bn or \$1.13. First half sales were \$9,577.3bn compared with \$7,853.77bn. AP-DJ

SEC warning to brokers A STERN warning has been issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission to securities firms to stop a number of practices that the Commission believes are unfair to customers.

The warning included the practice of issuing cheques to customers that had been drawn on distant banks to prolong the broker's use of the customer's money, and the practice of retaining interest and dividend payments instead of disbursing them upon receipt.

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## SWISS FRANC MEASURES

## Foreigners may increase holdings

BY JOHN WICKS IN ZURICH

INVESTORS outside Switzerland will be able to increase their holdings of Swiss franc securities, following Sunday's announcement of new measures to counter the sharp rise in the exchange rate. The share of foreign borrowings open to non-resident subscription will be increased from 55 per cent to 50 per cent, while proceeds from the sale of Swiss domestic securities will be liable to be reinvested without restriction.

These two relaxations in the regulations announced in February are seen by the National Bank as likely to contribute to government policy of keeping interest rates low. At the same time, it is hoped that demand for foreign currencies will be improved by the promotion of non-resident borrowings. This is intended to result both from the expansion of the buying public

for foreign issues and from a decision to allow borrowers to exchange half of their Swiss franc proceeds on the free market. The National Bank would also facilitate foreign currency investments by industrial undertakings.

It seems unlikely that the programme will have a really striking effect on the bond market. There has for some time been a marked shortage of new issues during high domestic liquidity, and ordinary market bonds have been regularly and massively oversubscribed. The recent SwFr 50m issue of Oberosterreichische Kraftwerke at 4 per cent was subscribed "several times over" according to lead manager Credit Suisse, and the same has applied to other foreign loans.

The possibility of reinvesting foreigners' Swiss franc income from the sale of domestic securities does provide the

chance for non-residents to stay in the market and to change the type of domestic security held. Domestic securities include number of deposit and money bonds, so this would allow non-cut and further reductions are expected. Since inflation is running at only an annual 1.1 per cent, even very low capital market coupons present an attractive real term interest rate for investors.

The Swiss stock market has been having a rough time and even raise it above present levels, so long as the Swiss franc continues, while the National Bank is determined to keep its foot on interest rates. This reduces the attraction of improved substantially towards

the end of last week, however, as the Swiss franc fell back from its record highs. The secondary market for bonds has been subject to much less depression, although non-resident investors have been banned from participation since February. All pre-listed foreign bonds are at or near par, and a small number of over-the-counter issues are not large, while many listed bonds have a substantial bonus in view of their now highly attractive coupons.

The level of these earlier issues compares to lead to large scale premature redemptions. A list drawn up by the Zurich newspaper "Finanz und Wirtschaft" of such repayments already announced between now and next July shows a substantial number of bonds being redeemed anything from three to 10 years before original maturity.

Feature, Page 20

U.S. \$20,000,000  
Floating Rate U.S. Dollar Negotiable Certificates  
of Deposit, due 3rd April, 1981.

THE SANWA BANK,  
LIMITED  
LONDON



In accordance with the provisions of the Certificates, notice is hereby given that for the six months interest period from 30th October, 1978 to 30th April, 1979, the Certificates will carry an interest rate of 10 1/2 per annum. The relevant interest payment date will be 30th April, 1979.

Merrill Lynch International Bank Limited  
Agent Bank

October 3, 1978

\$4,000,000  
The Fisheries Loan Fund of Iceland

Promissory Notes due 1982/88  
Guaranteed by the Republic of Iceland

These Notes have been placed privately through the undersigned with an institutional investor.

DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.







# Fresh Wall St. technical rise in thin trade

## INVESTMENT DOLLAR

Effective 1978 31st (34%)

Effective 1978 31st (40%)

Effective 1978 31st (46%)

Effective 1978 31st (52%)

Effective 1978 31st (58%)

Effective 1978 31st (64%)

Effective 1978 31st (70%)

Effective 1978 31st (76%)

Effective 1978 31st (82%)

Effective 1978 31st (88%)

Effective 1978 31st (94%)

Effective 1978 31st (100%)

Effective 1978 31st (106%)

Effective 1978 31st (112%)

Effective 1978 31st (118%)

Effective 1978 31st (124%)

Effective 1978 31st (130%)

Effective 1978 31st (136%)

Effective 1978 31st (142%)

Effective 1978 31st (148%)

Effective 1978 31st (154%)

Effective 1978 31st (160%)

Effective 1978 31st (166%)

Effective 1978 31st (172%)

Effective 1978 31st (178%)

Effective 1978 31st (184%)

Effective 1978 31st (190%)

Effective 1978 31st (196%)

Effective 1978 31st (202%)

Effective 1978 31st (208%)

Effective 1978 31st (214%)

Effective 1978 31st (220%)

Effective 1978 31st (226%)

Effective 1978 31st (232%)

Effective 1978 31st (238%)

Effective 1978 31st (244%)

Effective 1978 31st (250%)

Effective 1978 31st (256%)

Effective 1978 31st (262%)

Effective 1978 31st (268%)

Effective 1978 31st (274%)

Effective 1978 31st (280%)

Effective 1978 31st (286%)

Effective 1978 31st (292%)

Effective 1978 31st (298%)

Effective 1978 31st (304%)

Effective 1978 31st (310%)

Effective 1978 31st (316%)

Effective 1978 31st (322%)

Effective 1978 31st (328%)

Effective 1978 31st (334%)

Effective 1978 31st (340%)

Effective 1978 31st (346%)

Effective 1978 31st (352%)

Effective 1978 31st (358%)

Effective 1978 31st (364%)

Effective 1978 31st (370%)

Effective 1978 31st (376%)

Effective 1978 31st (382%)

Effective 1978 31st (388%)

Effective 1978 31st (394%)

Effective 1978 31st (400%)

Effective 1978 31st (406%)

Effective 1978 31st (412%)

Effective 1978 31st (418%)

Effective 1978 31st (424%)

Effective 1978 31st (430%)

Effective 1978 31st (436%)

Effective 1978 31st (442%)

Effective 1978 31st (448%)

Effective 1978 31st (454%)

Effective 1978 31st (460%)

Effective 1978 31st (466%)

Effective 1978 31st (472%)

Effective 1978 31st (478%)

Effective 1978 31st (484%)

Effective 1978 31st (490%)

Effective 1978 31st (496%)

Effective 1978 31st (502%)

Effective 1978 31st (508%)

Effective 1978 31st (514%)

Effective 1978 31st (520%)

Effective 1978 31st (526%)

Effective 1978 31st (532%)

Effective 1978 31st (538%)

Effective 1978 31st (544%)

Effective 1978 31st (550%)

Effective 1978 31st (556%)

Effective 1978 31st (562%)

Effective 1978 31st (568%)

Effective 1978 31st (574%)

Effective 1978 31st (580%)

Effective 1978 31st (586%)

Effective 1978 31st (592%)

Effective 1978 31st (598%)

Effective 1978 31st (604%)

Effective 1978 31st (610%)

Effective 1978 31st (616%)

Effective 1978 31st (622%)

lifted its 75 per cent initial margin

requirement on some Gaming

issues but maintained it on others.

Active Ramada Inc. still on a

75 per cent margin, climbed 1 to

\$14. It has signed a contract to

buy the Ambassador Hotel in

Atlantic City for a casino. Hold-

ings that will remain on a

50 per cent margin, shed 4 to

\$27. It plans to build a 500-

room hotel casino in Atlantic City.

The NYSE All

Common Index closed 20 cents

higher at \$57.86 and rises out-

numbered losses by 764 to 618.

Turnover was down to 18.88m

shares from last Friday's total of

23.61m.

Analysts said, however, that

investors remain concerned over

rising interest rates and expected

cuts to member banks, and

funds to member banks, and

further boosts the Federal Funds

Rate, at which member banks

borrow reserves from each other,

to control money growth. They

predicted a rise of 50 basis points

to 8 1/2 per cent in the Discount

Rate and to 9 per cent from the

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Rate. The Commerce Department

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national but the "A" stock

advanced 13 to \$157 in active

trading and the "B" 17 to \$222.

Canada

Markets continued to

strengthen in fairly active trading,

the Toronto Composite Index

advancing 62 points to a high

for the year of 1,290.9. Gold

moved ahead 18.2 to 1,881.0, Oils

and Gas 6.0 to 1,782.9, Metals and

Minerals 2.3 to 1,247.9, Papers 2.1

to 1,507.1 and Banks 1.07 to 239.49.

Price Co. the most active index,

rose 31 to \$221.1 and Abitibi

to \$318.1. Both were halted until

the last hour pending news that

Abitibi is to offer \$233 for each

share.

Germany

Share prices were often higher,

continuing last week's upsurge

and leaving the Commerzbank

index a further 3.7 up at a new

eight-year peak of 853.1.

Continued optimism about the

West German economic outlook

coupled with the strength of the

Deutsche mark fuelled the

market's rise.

Among Banks, Deutsche Bank

rose DM 2.30 and Bayerische

Vereinsbank DM 5.00, while Motors

had Daimler-Benz DM 8.30

stronger. MAN climbed DM 7.50 in

Engineering and Karstadt added

DM 2.50 in Stores.

However, VEGA was DM 2.30

lower following the Cartel Office's

decision to veto the proposed

take-over by Deutsche BP of parts

of the VEGA group.

Public Authority Bonds were

firmer on balance despite DM 33.6m

of Bundesbank sales. Mark Foreign

Loans also hardened.

Tokyo

After taking its recent good rise

a stage further in early trading,

the market sustained a reaction

on profit taking, to close with a

predominance of losses on the

day. The Nikkei-Dow Jones

Average reached a new record

high of 5,791.92 before declining

to 5,786.66 for a net loss of 5.26

while the Tokyo SE index was

finally 0.22 down at 434.12. Trading

amounting to 390m shares, com-

pared with 360m during



# FINANCIAL-TIMES SURVEY

## COMPUTER PERIPHERALS

The Financial Times proposes to publish a survey on Computer Peripherals on Tuesday, December 5th 1978. The provisional editorial synopsis is set out below.

**INTRODUCTION** A large area of the computer peripherals industry has been deeply influenced by the penetration and the increasing power of the microprocessor. This device can make the units which incorporate it potentially as powerful as yesterday's computers. Consequences for users and makers.

**WHERE IMITATION IS NO FLATTERY**

**MEMORY IS THE KEY**

**STEMMING THE FLOOD OF PAPER**

**TERMINALS GIVEN A BRAIN**

**POTENT AID FOR ENGINEERS/DESIGNERS**

**THE FLOPPY DISC JUST GROWS AND GROWS**

**DATA CAPTURE**

For further information on the editorial synopsis and advertising rates please contact:

Robert Murrell,  
Financial Times,  
Bracken House,  
10 Cannon Street,  
London EC4A 3DF.  
Tel: 01-248 8000 ext. 246.

**FINANCIAL TIMES**  
EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

The content and publication dates of Surveys in the Financial Times are subject to change at the discretion of the Editor.

### APPOINTMENTS

## Lloyds Bank International

Mr. Eric Whittle, a director and deputy chief executive of LLOYDS BANK INTERNATIONAL, has been appointed chief executive in succession to the late Mr. Dennis Mitchell. Mr. Whittle has spent all his working career in international banking, including a number of senior appointments overseas.

Mr. Brian Pitman has been appointed a director and deputy chief executive of the bank. Mr. Pitman was formerly a joint general manager of Lloyds Bank. In 1976 he was seconded to LBI as an executive director until joining Lloyds Bank group headquarters in March this year.

From November 1, Mr. John Goodchap, chief accountant of W. D. AND H. O. WILLS, becomes accounting director. He succeeds Mr. Leslie Rowell, who is retiring as assistant managing director with responsibility for the accounting function. Mr. Brian Croke joins the company as marketing director. He succeeds Mr. Christopher Cory who has been appointed Wills managing director. Mr. Croke was previously head of London-based marketing consultancy CGL. He is a former marketing manager and UK sales director for Rothmans International.

Mr. Donald Atwood has been named vice-president of GENERAL MOTORS and general manager of the Detroit Diesel Allison division. He succeeds Mr. James Knott, who has retired.

Mr. Jeffrey Greenberg has been made manager of aviation for AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNDERWRITERS (LONDON). His responsibility will be the London office aviation account and the worldwide (excluding the U.S.) aviation account, produced in local jurisdictions.

Mr. G. R. A. Metcalfe has retired from the Board of INITIAL SERVICES, and Mr. H. Lewis and Mr. R. K. Thompson have been appointed executive directors. Mr. Lewis is currently



Mr. Eric Whittle

chief executive of the company's linen supply division. The main responsibility of Mr. Thompson is now that of chairman of the company's contract cleaning subsidiary, INITIAL SERVICE CLEANERS.

Mr. David Clarke has been appointed an associate director of HANSON TRUST. He was recently made president of HANSON INDUSTRIES INC., the parent company of Hanson Trust's U.S. interests.

Following the appointment of Mr. A. W. Trower as chairman of the UK and European print division, the following additional appointments at the MARDON PACKAGING GROUP'S European subsidiaries are announced. Mr. Trower is appointed president director general of Imprimeries Debar SA.

M. J. L. Debar relinquishes his post as director general on his retirement but remains an administrator and in view of his long and distinguished service with the company, has been elected president

d'honneur. M. J.-F. Vignaud is appointed director general and administrator and Messrs. Girardet and Ph. Debar are appointed administrators of the company.

Mr. Trower is also appointed president director general of Girardet Emballages SA. Mr. J. H. B. Allan, group financial controller of Mardon Packaging International, is appointed an administrator of the company.

Mr. J. Duncan, chairman of the plastics division, is appointed a director of Mardon Packaging International. Mr. E. Horsfield, a group director and chairman of the flexible packaging division, and resigns his directorship of Mardon Packaging International and of the companies within the flexible packaging division.

Mr. E. H. Webber succeeds Mr. Horsfield as chairman of the flexible packaging division, retaining his responsibilities as group assistant managing director and his directorship of Lawson and Jones. Mr. Trower succeeds Mr. Webber as chairman of the UK and European print division.

Extrams Technical Services material suppliers of Winchester and New York, have acquired the total interest of Wilkins and Wilkins, marine and general engineers, Poole, Dorset. Mr. Alan Berrett, a member of the Extrams board, has been appointed managing director of WILKINS AND WILKINS.

Mr. G. W. Croker, is to be a director of FENCHURCH GROUP BROKERS INTERNATIONAL; and Mr. R. A. Matthews, is to be a director of CREDIT INSURANCE SERVICES; both members of the Guinness Peat Group.

ARTOC BANK AND TRUST has appointed Mr. Robert Sinclair a director and general manager.

He was formerly general manager of the Gulf Bank, KSC, Kuwait.

MENEILL GROUP has appointed Mr. Graham F. Lacey as chairman and Mr. R. C. McBride as a director.

## Distillers Company Board

The Lord Maclean has been appointed to the board of THE DISTILLERS COMPANY.

Mr. V. J. E. Davies has been appointed chairman of the board of ATLANTIC COMPUTER LEASING with special responsibility for investment and taxation matters. Mr. J. G. Foulston retains his position as managing director and chief executive with overall responsibility for the group's sales and engineering activities. Mr. R. A. Gibson becomes European sales director.

Mr. U. J. Dove has been appointed managing director of the group's industrial leasing company—ATLANTIC LEASING—and assumes responsibility for all the group's leasing activities in fields other than that of IBM Computer Systems leasing. Mr. K. Jeffs has been promoted to operations director for the group's administrative and financial organisation.

Other appointments to the position of executive director, made as a result of the reorganisation, are: Mr. S. P. Mason becomes UK sales director of Atlantic Computer Leasing; Mrs. S. Y. Cheng Kai On has been appointed finance director of Atlantic Computer Leasing and Atlantic Leasing responsible for both the company's financial and accounting affairs. She was previously an auditor with Rowland Nevill.

WILSONS BREWERY of Manchester has appointed Mr. Bryan Wilson as production and distribution director.

Two new non-executive directors appointed to the board of STENHOUSE INDUSTRIES are: Mr. Norman Macfarlane, chairman and managing director of Macfarlane Group (Clansman), and Mr. R. G. Newberry, director of BAIRD TEXTILE HOLDINGS.

## Foseco Minsep chairman

FOSECO MINSEP announces that Mr. Eric Weiss, the founder of Foseco, will retire as chairman on December 31, upon reaching 70, but will remain a director. It is proposed to create the office of



Dr. D. V. Atterton

president and it is the intention of the Board to appoint Mr. Weiss as life president. Dr. D. V. Atterton will then be appointed chairman of the Group and Mr. A. G. T. Chubb will be appointed group managing director; currently they hold the offices of group managing director and deputy group managing director respectively.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION has appointed Mr. Denis Parker, manager of the assets division in succession to Mr. M. T. Maurice, who continues as deputy general manager. Mr. Parker, who was investment manager, is succeeded by Mr.

W. A. R. Goodsall and Mr. C. J. Holmes, who have been appointed joint investment managers.

Midlands-based NEWWEY GROUP, manufacturers of pins, haberdashery and other smallware products, announce that Mr. Bryan C. Knight has joined the company as chief executive, and has also been appointed joint deputy chairman. He was managing director of a haberdashery manufacturing company in Italy, which held the agency for William Prym-Werke, of Germany. It was announced recently that Prym had succeeded in its takeover bid for Newwey, of which it now owns 99 per cent of the shares.

Mr. D. Howard Woodcock has been appointed chairman of the Sheffield-based WOODCOCK travel and freight group, in addition to his role of managing director. He succeeds his father, Mr. Douglas C. Woodcock, who died earlier this year.

Mr. Colin Cartwright has been appointed works director of PERCY LANE (ARCHITECTURAL), a subsidiary of Percy Lane Group, the Birmingham-based manufacturers of glazed aluminium windows, entrance doors and screens and curtain walling.

Mr. Jason Frangoulis and Mr. Nelson Robertson have each been appointed a deputy general manager of GENERAL ACCIDENT. Mr. Frangoulis will take control of General Accident's newly formed international division. He will also retain control of the company's research and development department. Mr. Robertson's overseas duties will remain largely unchanged, but he will assume wider responsibilities within General Accident's head office management structure.

## Bob Day's tax bill is big enough to cover Britain's road-building programme.



As the Cost Accountant at Imperial Tobacco, Bob Day (amongst others) has the responsibility of making sure that the company is paying the right amount of Tobacco Duty to the Government.

And as tax contributions go, this one is pretty substantial.

"The point is that we don't just pay Corporation Tax through our parent company; with Tobacco Duty, we're acting as unpaid tax collectors on a massive scale. In fact, until the rules were changed at the beginning of 1978, we had to bear the financing cost of about £125 million that had been paid in duty for some weeks before we could recover it.

"But the thing that surprises most people is the sheer size of the sums involved. In our last financial year to October 31st, 1977, for example, we handed over more than £1,250 million in Tobacco Duty—which was a good deal more than the £825 million spent on motorways, trunk roads and local roads in the 1976/77 tax year.

"If one looks at the contribution by the tobacco industry as a whole in that tax year, it came to £1,872 million; nearly enough to pay for Government expenditure on housing (£2,138 million), more than enough to cover education (£1,515 million), the 'law and order' services (£1,082 million) or even interest payments on the National Debt (£1,157 million).

"All this tax, of course, comes out of the pockets of our customers. But it does show what can be done when you make a product that people want, and that Chancellors can tax."

There's more to Imperial Tobacco than Tobacco Duty, of course. It's the major British-owned tobacco company in the UK market, a substantial creator of wealth, and an employer of over 20,000 people in the UK alone.

Income from Tobacco Duty and how it compares with some major Government expenditures in the tax year 1976/77.



## APOLLO

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## Imperial Tobacco: people at work

Imperial Tobacco Limited—a member of Imperial Group Limited



## FARMING AND RAW MATERIALS

## Rebuff for Brussels on fish policy

By Our Commodities Staff

A RELATED attempt by the EEC Commission to get the British to think again on its unilateral fish conservation policy has received short shrift from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Commission wrote to the UK Ministry at the weekend requesting detailed information on the measures and the scientific evidence on which they are based. It urged that they should not be enforced until it had time to consider the position.

Ministry officials said yesterday that while the information would be supplied there was no intention of delaying operation of the measures, many of which were already in force.

The Commission's move is seen as a response to pressure from the Danes and Irish who are angry respectively at the extension of the Norway pout box (within which industrial fishmeal is banned) and an early end to the herring season in the British sector of the Irish Sea.

The Ministry said yesterday that the pout box extension started at midnight on Saturday. No Danish or Irish fishing had been reported either in the pout box or Britain's Irish Sea area on Sunday.

## World grain crop forecast raised again

THE UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has again raised its forecast for world wheat and coarse grain production this year, to 1,140 million tonnes.

The forecast is 110 million tonnes higher than FAO predictions a month ago, and would put 1978 production at 48m tonnes or 4.4 per cent above last year's level.

Wheat production is forecast at 415m tonnes, almost 8 per cent up on 1977 and 1 per cent higher than the long-term trend, the organisation said in a report based on information available up to September 25.

The increase in forecast wheat and coarse grain production reflects good weather, which has helped spring cereals in the U.S., Western Europe and the USSR, where record or near-record crops are now expected.

There are also reductions in the estimates for some countries, notably wheat production in Canada, the U.S. and Argentina which only partly offset the upward adjustment.

Coarse grains output is forecast at 725m tonnes, 18m tonnes more than in 1977.

## Aluminium futures debut on Metal Exchange

By JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

ALUMINIUM FUTURES trading had an encouraging start on the London Metal Exchange yesterday.

Members came from far and wide to be present at what was considered to be an important occasion—the first new contract introduced on the Metal Exchange since silver was re-launched in 1968 and the first time ever aluminium has been traded there, after years of talk.

There was a ripple of applause when the first aluminium trading "ring" ended with a turnover of 2,000 tonnes, especially as it followed some lively pre-market trading.

The market quietened down later with 1,300 lots traded in the second morning "ring" and only 325 in the afternoon sessions.

Prices moved somewhat erratically at first falling to £570 a tonne at one stage in pre-market dealings, but later settling down between £584 and £587 before closing at £585.75 a tonne.

This compares with the present UK aluminium producer price of £710 a tonne for 99.99% grade ingots delivered. The LME price is for 99.5 per cent grade, ex-warehouse with seller's option.

There were more spectacular price movements on the lead and tin markets. Cash lead jumped by £11 to close at £579.5 a tonne.

The gap between the cash and the three months quotations has now been virtually eliminated, reflecting a squeeze on immediately available supplies, although LME warehouse stocks of lead were only 25 tonnes down at a total of 32,275 tonnes. Buying interest for cash lead, however, soon revealed a reluctance to sell.

The market was also given a firm undertone by a series of increases in domestic prices announced by leading U.S. and Canadian producers.

Tin stocks were only 5 tonnes lower at 1,485 tonnes and the Penang market fell over the weekend by \$310 to \$31,850 a tonne. Nevertheless London

values rallied strongly, especially the cash price which gained £140 to £7,150 a tonne. The three months quotation gained £90 to £6,957.

After opening slightly lower, buying interest, however, moved prices up and the upward trend was accelerated when chart points were reached.

As expected copper stocks in LME warehouses showed the smallest decline for many weeks, falling by only 975 tonnes to a total of 24,030 tonnes.

The market was kept up by speculative buying that offset trade selling and by further U.S. domestic price increases. Copper Range announced a 2 cent rise to 68 cents a lb, while Inco put up its price by 1 cent to 68 cents.

Zinc stocks rose by 925 to 73,325 tonnes and LME silver holdings increased by 140,000 to 18,220,000 ounces.

## Low key start for sugar market

By OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

LONDON'S new white sugar futures contract received a low key launching yesterday. There is some anxiety not to publicise too loudly the fact that they are setting up a rival market to Paris and ruffle the feelings of the French even further.

Turnover on the first day's trading was a lowly 418 lots, 25 tonnes each well below the 3,116 lots traded on the established sugar futures market, but still well above the normal turnover on the Paris market.

London traders are confident, however, of the need for a viable hedging market to cope with the increased trade in white, refined, sugar. This, they claim, has not been provided by the Paris market since its relaunching after the 1974 "scandal".

Meanwhile sentiment remains hopeful on the market that the International Sugar Agreement export quotas will start "biting" next year and three prices above the minimum level of 11 cents a pound.

However, there is some concern over the continued delays in Congress even considering the proposed domestic sugar policy legislation that will have to be cleared before the U.S. can ratify the International Agreement.

It was noted that on Friday the International Sugar Council had to postpone the production of the Agreement's stock balance fund for a further three months until January 1 next year.

But President Carter's agreement to accept 13 cents

minimum price in the U.S. could help speed up U.S. ratification.

Meanwhile in Route UN Food and Agriculture Organisation predicted yesterday that world sugar output will probably decline substantially during the 1980s as a result of its record 92.5m tonnes level in 1977-78.

The President is not prepared to accept the "escalator" clause in the way and means committee Bill, but will give a commitment to use deficiency payments if U.S. production cost rises above the 15 cents support level.

Commenting on the Bill proposed a 17 cents minimum support price for sugar, to be considered by the Senate today, President Carter claimed that beet growers could probably produce sugar for less than 15 cents, even come producers in Hawaii would find 17 cents to be excessive.

## Carter compromise

By OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

PRESIDENT CARTER has offered a compromise in an effort to break the deadlock that has prevented U.S. domestic sugar legislation being approved by Congress and stopped ratification of the International Sugar Agreement.

The President confirmed that he would accept the House Ways and Means proposal of 15 cents a lb for U.S. growers.

This compares with Administration's original proposal of a 13 cents minimum price, which was later stepped up to 14.5 cents. Only two weeks ago the White House claimed in a letter to Congress that anything over

14.5 cents was "unnecessarily inflationary".

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## Coffee pact face-saver disappoints

By Richard Mooney

LONDON COFFEE traders were unimpressed yesterday by the complicated compromise formula reached in London late on Friday night at the end of the International Coffee Organisation's three-week negotiating session. They saw the agreement as little more than a face-saver for the Organisation.

Having reached a total stand-off on the price levels at which export quota trigger and cut-off prices should be fixed, the Coffee Council agreed that a new international coffee meeting should be called if prices moved 15 per cent above or below the average for the 6 days either side of the meeting and stayed outside that range for a further 20 days.

In effect, this means that no further action is likely to be taken until mid-December, and there is no guarantee that anything positive would emerge from any meeting called then.

Acceptable

But this outcome is thought to be quite acceptable both to the producers and the consumers. Neither side is particularly anxious to commit itself to any long-term policy at a time when there is still considerable uncertainty on the size of many important coffee crops, particularly Brazil's.

By December much of this uncertainty may have been removed and conditions may be more conducive to constructive negotiation.

St. Arturo Gomez Jaramilla, general manager of the Colombian National Coffee Growers' Federation, said the failure of the London talks meant that the task of managing the world coffee market now lies in the hands of producers abroad.

But this statement struck little fear into the hearts of the London coffee traders who still remember the much-publicised but totally ineffective producer attempts at organised export restraint which have mounted in the past few years.

## Grain imports

IMPORTS OF cereals into Britain last season were 7.63m tonnes, compared with 5.9m tonnes in 1977-78, the Home Grown Cereals Authority said yesterday.

Wheat purchases were 3.7m tonnes, 1.7m tonnes of which came from the U.S. barley imports were 320,000 tonnes and maize 3.5m tonnes.

## Pioneers break new ground in Llanos

By A CORRESPONDENT

ALTHOUGH ONLY a small part of the Colombian Amazon territory has been brought into agricultural production so far, the upper Orinoco is rapidly becoming an important area for cattle raising and for some tropical crops.

This region of rolling plains, known as the Llanos, covers a quarter of Colombia and has a population of only 600,000.

Much of the area is virtually uninhabited, but the cattle population is rising fast, and a federation of cattle ranchers of the Llanos, Fedellanos, is playing an active part in the development of this long-neglected chunk of the country.

Senior Hector Moreno, manager of Fedellanos, says: "We don't just represent the ranchers, but the whole of the Llanos community. We act as a voice and mediator for a wide range of problems such as health, radio communications and transport equipment."

"Rather than wait for Government organisations to come to us, we are setting up civic committees in small towns and we will make our own demands."

He claims landowners are changing their attitudes towards investment in the region, but that the difficulty of obtaining credit is holding them back.

horses and aircraft for transport—apart from the brief December-March dry season, when tough vehicles can be driven anywhere.

Rice, cotton, maize, yuca and sugarcane are the major crops of the Llanos. A fifth of the country's rice, 15 per cent of sugar and 12 per cent of maize are grown in the department of Meta alone, where the road network is best developed.

Yields are still relatively low compared with other areas of Colombia, but costs of production are also lower and the national crop growers' associations have only just begun to supply farmers in the Llanos with seed, fertilizer and technical advice.

Agricultural experts are convinced that productivity can be increased enormously, and a Government research centre in the Llanos is experimenting with different crop varieties.

However, the lack of local storage facilities and the difficulty of reaching the national market during the wet season are serious drawbacks.

Because of these problems, farmers further east concentrate mainly on cattle raising, and the animals have to walk long distances to the nearest transport point, losing weight along the way.

More than 70 per cent of the cattle in the Llanos are zebu, and most of them are kept on big ranches of natural pasture. Near the Andean foothills, five acres of land are needed to support one head, but the ratio rises as high as one head to 30 acres in the east where a ranch has to cover 12,000 acres to be profitable.

There is a main consumption centre, and about 250,000 head a year—50 per cent of total Llanos production—are taken to the capital. More than 100,000 head a year go over the border to Venezuela, and at least half of these are rustled cattle, smuggled out.

The Colombian authorities find it an impossible task to police a deer-sized frontier hundreds of miles long, and though Fedellanos itself has been providing personnel and equipment to try to control cattle rustling, contraband is on the increase.

Sr. Moreno blames the Government for not taking the insecurity problem seriously enough, and points out that if there were better support programmes for colonists, newly arrived settlers would not be so easily persuaded to join the smuggling gangs.

## Support

The Colombian Agrarian Reform and Colonisation Institute (INCORA) is giving some colonists land titles, credits and technical assistance, as well as carrying out small-scale education, health and transport projects.

INCORA's programme in Arauca was supported by a U.S.\$10m loan from the Inter-American Development Bank, and a second loan of U.S.\$20m is being negotiated.

Some experts are concerned that a recent surge of spontaneous colonisation may bring economic disaster for the future. Sr. Paulo Luciani, who directs the Las Gaviotas experimental centre in the Llanos, warns that the plains could become a huge tropical desert if trees but not cattle are not protected by settlers. He stresses the need to adapt technology to local conditions.

The future of the Llanos as Colombia's "larder" may be endangered by the ever-increasing destruction of vegetation that goes with it, unless the Government shows greater interest in the region.

## Austria wins EEC farm trade deal

By PAUL LENDVAY

VIENNA, October 2

THE EEC has promised to make substantive concessions to Austria regarding easier access for Austrian farm produce to the Common Market.

Mr. Finn Gundelach, the EEC vice-president and commissioner in charge of agricultural affairs, said yesterday that the subject of approval by the EEC Council of Ministers the new guidelines

they reached what they called a "breakthrough" in their talks.

In detail, it involves a promise by the EEC Commissioner that the question of the export of Austrian cattle for breeding will be resolved before the end of the year.

He hinted that subject in approval by the EEC Council of Ministers the new guidelines

demanding a double registration of breeding cattle will not come into force.

However, guarantees must be provided that the concessions are granted only in the case of breeding cattle and not cattle for slaughter.

Some progress appears to have been made in the case of access for the exports of Austrian cattle for slaughter.

## COMMODITY MARKET REPORTS AND PRICES

**COPPER**—Gained ground, mainly under the influence of London which was subject to commission house buying. But there has been trade within the continental market. Forward metal traded up in the morning between 40 and 50 pence, but fell to 40 pence by the afternoon. The market was quiet at 40 pence before the close at 40 pence. A few of metal houses were active in the afternoon.

**WIREBARS**—The market was quiet. Three months 144.5-145.5, six months 144.5-145.5, three months 144.5-145.5, six months 144.5-145.5.

**ALUMINIUM**—The market was quiet. Three months 585.75, six months 585.75, three months 585.75, six months 585.75.

**LEAD**—The market was quiet. Three months 579.5, six months 579.5, three months 579.5, six months 579.5.

**TIN**—The market was quiet. Three months 6,957, six months 6,957, three months 6,957, six months 6,957.

L.G. Index Limited 01-351 3466. Three months Tin 6920-6980. 29 Lombard Road, London SW10 0HS.

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## BASE METALS

**COPPER**—Gained ground, mainly under the influence of London which was subject to commission house buying. But there has been trade within the continental market. Forward metal traded up in the morning between 40 and 50 pence, but fell to 40 pence by the afternoon. The market was quiet at 40 pence before the close at 40 pence. A few of metal houses were active in the afternoon.

**WIREBARS**—The market was quiet. Three months 144.5-145.5, six months 144.5-145.5, three months 144.5-145.5, six months 144.5-145.5.

**ALUMINIUM**—The market was quiet. Three months 585.75, six months 585.75, three months 585.75, six months 585.75.

**LEAD**—The market was quiet. Three months 579.5, six months 579.5, three months 579.5, six months 579.5.

**TIN**—The market was quiet. Three months 6,957, six months 6,957, three months 6,957, six months 6,957.

L.G. Index Limited 01-351 3466. Three months Tin 6920-6980. 29 Lombard Road, London SW10 0HS.

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# World Nuclear Industries

This Survey, which coincides with the fifth Nuclex nuclear industries exhibition and congress in Basle, Switzerland, finds the international nuclear manufacturing industry and its customers cautiously emerging from several years of intense political hostility and public scrutiny.

## Facing up to the strain

By David Fishlock  
Science Editor

THE THREE years since the last Nuclex nuclear industries exhibition and congress in Basle have not been happy ones for nuclear power and its advocates. They have been years in which events and accidents so trivial that in other industries they would barely rate a mention in local papers have been blazoned across the front pages of the national Press. They have been years in which politicians worldwide, apparently unable to cope with the central problems for which they asked to be elected—economic stability, employment, security, etc.—have often found nuclear power a convenient butt with which to distract the electors. And the last year has been one in which the world's most conspicuous advocate of nuclear power has been obliged to stay silent while those opposed to

the industry monopolised the news.

Dr. James Schlesinger, one-time chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and now U.S. Secretary for Energy, appears to have lost touch with President Carter, whose controversial energy policy he is trying to implement. He is no longer a confidant of Mr. Carter; no longer part of the inner circle of White House advisers. His critics accuse him of failing to "master the subtleties of political trench warfare." His friends say that the national energy plan he has been given the task of implementing is too complex a compromise, seeking to satisfy too many constituencies: that it "endeavours to substitute political perceptions of reality for reality itself; that it avoids expertise because of the currently fashionable view that expertise by its very nature is contaminated and corrupt."

The Washington situation has a curious parallel in Whitehall where Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, as Secretary for Energy, presides over the complacent *pot pourri* which passes for the Government's energy policy. Here, however, the result has tended to be a back seat for energy—and nuclear energy especially—which has remained especially of secondary political importance through a period when almost every other industrialised nation was bringing it to the forefront of politics.

Small wonder, then, the nuclear chiefs of the two nations which pioneered commercial nuclear energy should

look so enviously towards nations which have recognised that, in the national interest, nuclear energy's problems demand wholehearted political support. France, W. Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Japan, among the industrialised nations, have all decided to forge ahead. Their decisions betoken considerable political courage because a groundswell of opposition initiated in the U.S. in the 1960s has been co-ordinated into an international political activity, fast-moving, ruthless, terrifying to the more timorous political leaders.

The Windscale Inquiry, called by Britain's political leaders when the going began to get rough in 1976, demonstrated conclusively that the nuclear opposition was founded on emotional objections which opponents strove to justify on an astonishingly wide variety of grounds—international security, public hazard, economics, employment patterns, etc. Several overseas witnesses were among the 84 called by opponents (compared with 37 representing the company and the government) of the proposed new project for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel. The Inspector, Mr. Justice Parker, isolated 17 different objections and rejected every one. The reprocessing project, he recommended, should proceed "without delay." The British Parliament subsequently endorsed his recommendation with two clear votes in favour.

The inquiry, to quote one senior civil servant who appeared as a witness, was a

### GROWING WORLD DEPENDENCE ON NUCLEAR ELECTRICITY

	1976	1977	1980
Belgium	21	22.4	—
Sweden	18	21.7	24.5
Switzerland	18	16.8	—
France	—	13.4	26
Britain	13	13.14*	—
W. Germany	—	11.0	—
United States	—	12.0	—
Bulgaria	—	—	20

\* DOE estimate

Source: Atomic Industrial Forum

"searing experience" for the project—was that it would heighten the risks of nuclear weapon proliferation. But the Parliamentary select committee, for instance, had prepared witnesses in attempting to condemn present-day reprocessing were taken aback by what they saw as the cynical place of any coherent line of opposition of opponents in the face of a judicial view of the proceedings and had no hesitation, for example, in reprimanding witnesses for repetition and, in his report, for what he judged to be wilful attempts to mislead him.

The strongest argument presented against the Windscale reprocessing project—in that it drew moral support from the U.S. Government which, before and even after the inquiry, tried to persuade Britain to abandon

W. European nations willing to have their spent fuel reprocessed by other nations, in spite of U.S. threats that it might not be prepared to grant MB 10 licences for the retransfer of fuel it originally enriched.

In July President Carter's emissary on proliferation policy arrived in London with a new brief. He came in frankly conciliatory mood, to explore with top nuclear industry and government officials the possibilities for an "accommodation" between U.S. policy and the energy security of its allies. Could something be salvaged of a policy in which the President and his emissary, Dr. Joseph Nye of the State Department, still believe fervently?

which nations can place different long-term energy bets without jeopardising each other's national security interests. We ask those who bet on breeders to include security costs which they impose on others, particularly safe fuel cycles, in their economic calculations."

He spelled out four points his government particularly wished other countries pursuing the commercial fast breeder reactor to observe:

- To avoid the temptation to try to reduce unit capital costs by "premature" exports, and to restrict the FBR's use to situations where it showed "compelling advantages."
- To so design its fuel cycle as to make "misuse" of plutonium difficult and time-consuming, even though this might increase its electricity costs.
- To minimise movements of plutonium fuel.
- To organise multi-national institutions to safeguard FBRs against proliferation.

### Need

Dr. Nye stressed that the U.S. government is not opposed to nuclear power. He said he believes that the U.S. could have 320,000 MW of nuclear power operating by the end of the century (compared with 51,361 MW in operation today, and another 97,310 MW under construction). His government accepted that, by the year 2000, nuclear energy could account for as much as 15 per cent of total U.S. energy consumption. In Europe and Japan it could be as high as 25 per cent.

Dr. Nye said his government now recognised that some countries saw a more pressing need to perfect the commercial fast breeder reactor than did the U.S. at present. But he urged all to "strive for a situation in

which nations can place different long-term energy bets without jeopardising each other's national security interests. We ask those who bet on breeders to include security costs which they impose on others, particularly safe fuel cycles, in their economic calculations."

It has been authoritatively intimated, however, that the U.S. Government's focus of concern has shifted from the FBR—on the development of which it has been able to exert so little influence—to the recycling of plutonium through light water reactors. This is technology to which it is still firmly opposed. If this is so, the most persuasive argument against a technology which nowadays is recognised as having, at best, marginal economic advantage rests squarely with the U.S. itself. It must show convincingly that what today are little more than assertions that there will be ample low-priced uranium fuel to support a very large world expansion of nuclear power can in fact be substantiated convincingly to those countries—such as West Germany—most interested in recycling plutonium.

The Windscale Inquiry, 1978, HMSO, £3.75.



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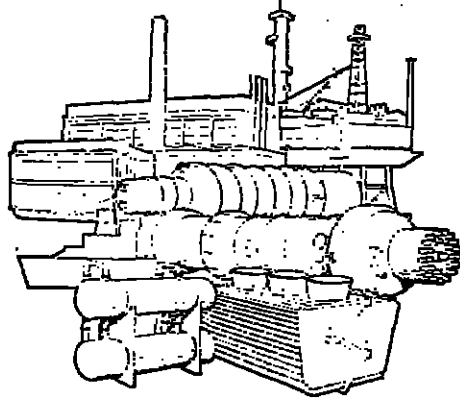
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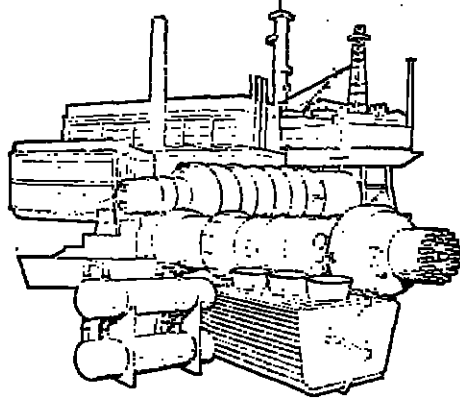
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## Rays of hope in U.S.

NUCLEAR POWER was already in trouble when Mr. Jimmy Carter was elected President of the U.S. But since then it has been in considerably worse shape.

The woes of the nuclear industry in the U.S. go back to the late 1960s and early 1970s when an embryonic opposition began the apparently hopeless task of trying to stop the use of nuclear power for electric generation. In the intervening years, the movement has succeeded to such an extent that even the President is an opponent of some aspects of the industry and a lukewarm supporter, at best, of others.

However, it is an oversimplification to suggest that all of the nuclear industry's problems have been brought about by the anti-nuclear movement. The biggest arises from changed patterns of energy consumption and wildly disoriented long-range load-forecasting. These factors have abetted the anti-nuclear movement to such an extent that the U.S. nuclear industry today is surviving only by working off a huge book of back orders. Not a single new nuclear unit has been ordered this year, whereas four have been cancelled and 25 have been deferred by their prospective customers.

The industry is embattled and gloomy, but it takes confidence in the thought that eventually the nation will recognise that it has no alternative but to turn back to nuclear power, for very sound reasons—as the most environmentally acceptable, the cheapest and the safest means of generating electricity on a massive scale. There are enough nuclear reactors already operating and in hand to ensure the survival of the industry through the lean years, it is argued.

Ironically enough, it may be the problems of coal that will usher in a new nuclear era in the U.S. Tough environmental laws affecting open-cast mining, punitive clean-air standards, and a growing debate over the consequences of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are the strongest indicators that, in a reappraisal, nuclear power may be seen to be more advantageous than its one serious competitor.

For all of its problems, the nuclear base in the U.S. is fairly sound. According to the Atomic Industrial Forum, the industry's trade association, 71 units have operating licences, representing 51,381 MW of electricity

generating capacity. Another 89 plants have construction permits—97,310 MW of capacity. Six more plants have limited work authorisations (a pre-construction permit licence enabling site clearance to begin); and 38 more plants are on order, representing a potential increase in nuclear capacity of 43,715 MW. Of a total generating capacity in the U.S. of 556,883 MW nuclear power accounts for 9.5 per cent—a sufficiently substantial amount of electricity to suggest that even the wildest political pressure could not close down an operating plant unless there were technical reasons for revoking its licence.

Of course, the plants are widely scattered but some areas—such as the state of Connecticut and the city of Chicago—already draw more than half of their electricity from nuclear plant.

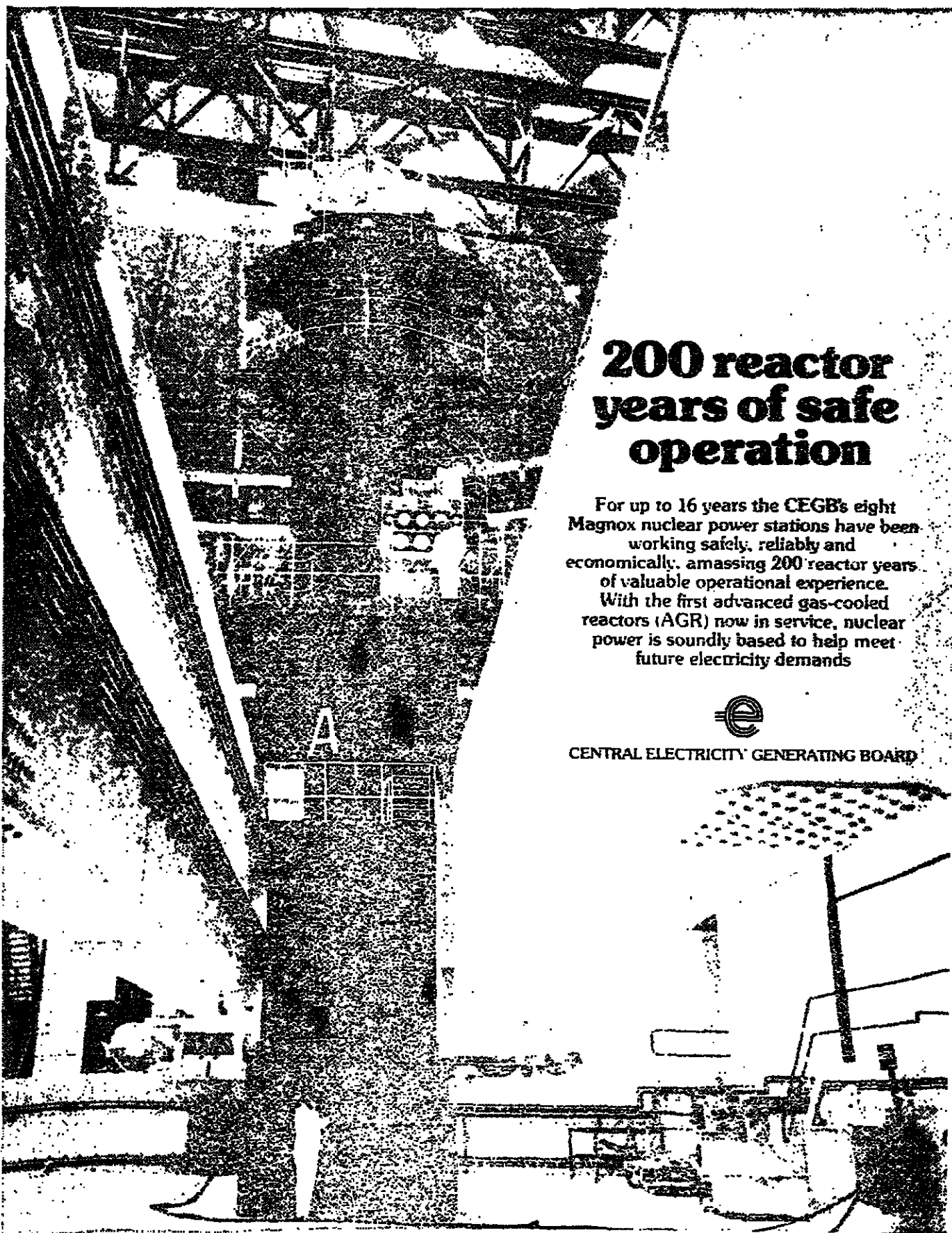
### Potential

Why nuclear power is seen today as the "option of last resort" is an enigma. Certainly, on the surface, it outdistances any advanced technology on almost every count: environmentally, in reliability, in cost, and in its potential for further development. Yet opposition to nuclear power is emotional, deep-seated and widespread. The industry has traditionally tended to brush off its critics as a lunatic fringe not worthy of serious consideration. But legislators and others who sample the political waters have taken it seriously and have, if anything, tended to cultivate the anti-nuclear constituency. The best illustration of the emotional quotient in the assault on nuclear power has been the diversity of issues that have been raised over the years. These include the effects of low-level radiation; the integrity of reactor pressure vessels; emergency core cooling in a light-water reactor of U.S. design; high capital costs; terrorism; security from seismic upheaval; production techniques and materials quality; waste disposal; and proliferation resistance.

Of this litany of real or imagined faults, it seems to me that only two have merit in light of the extraordinary thoroughness with which nuclear power has been studied in the U.S. They are waste disposal and proliferation. To neither of them is there a quick, clean solution. In fact, in the disposing of waste, the opponents of nuclear power appear to be determined to perpetuate uncertainty by resisting any government plan for burial. So long as there is no permanent repository for high-level wastes, nuclear power can be presented as threatening the public. The fact that most radio-active waste in the U.S. arises from the military nuclear activities, and that these have to be disposed of in any case, does not diminish the ardour of those determined to advertise civilian nuclear power as the real threat to future generations. Likewise, confusion abounds on the issue of proliferation. Opponents of nuclear power will advertise power reactors as potential "bomb factories" because plutonium is a by-product of their operation. There is a wave of emotionalism which argues that if the U.S. took a lead in banning civilian nuclear power, it would somehow restrict the spread of weapons around the world. More conservative American politicians and the nuclear industry itself maintain that almost the reverse would obtain: that hesitancy on the part of the U.S. in supplying the technology, enriched fuel and reprocessing it once promised to make freely available under its "Atoms for Peace" programme will push other nations into a stage of advanced nuclear sophistication and the threshold of weapons more quickly. This happened, of course, with Britain and France when the U.S. withheld its assistance after the Second World War.

Traditionally, both political parties in the U.S. and every president since General Dwight Eisenhower have supported nuclear power in the belief that it is the technology of the future and that it offers the nation a way out of declining fossil-fuel reserves into a highly electrified economy. The first break in that confident executive chain has come with Mr. Carter, whose sense of political constituency is enormous. Perhaps the President's sense of the constituencies that make up the American voting public is so highly tuned, so finely sensitive that it shows the difference between the public's desires and its needs. In many areas of government, the President has resolved this conflict with a kind

CONTINUED ON PAGE IV



## 200 reactor years of safe operation

For up to 16 years the CEBG's eight Magnox nuclear power stations have been working safely, reliably and economically, amassing 200 reactor years of valuable operational experience. With the first advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGR) now in service, nuclear power is soundly based to help meet future electricity demands

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD



# Reprocessing projects

ALMOST ANY country in Europe—and for that matter, many throughout the world—could without too much difficulty build a reprocessing plant which would separate uranium and plutonium from radioactive fission products in spent nuclear fuel. The basic technology was published at the time of the first Geneva conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy in 1955. From the earliest days of civil nuclear development in Europe reprocessing was seen as an essential requirement, and most countries have included research and development in this area in their national nuclear programmes.

In addition, national and commercial interests from 13 countries have participated in one of the first major international collaborative projects in Europe: the Eurochemic reprocessing plant at Mol in Belgium, operated from 1966 to 1974, with a nominal capacity of 60 tonnes per year. The Italians commissioned a pilot plant, the EUREX 1, with a capacity of 10 tonnes per year in 1969; and the West Germans have been operating the WAK pilot plant with a capacity of 40 tonnes per year since 1970.

The problem today, therefore, is not one of basic reprocessing technology. It is the need to take advantage of economies of scale; for large commercial installations with capacities of around 1,000 tonnes per year, which can be operated at high efficiency for 10-15 years while key sections of the plant remain inaccessible for maintenance owing to high levels of radioactivity.

The situation has been complicated by the ever more stringent safety standards imposed on all civil nuclear installations, by changing ideas about financing and commercial contracting for special services in the nuclear field, and by the greatly intensified environmental and political controversy surrounding the whole subject of reprocessing.

## Military

Britain and France clearly have a head start in reprocessing on a commercial scale. Not only did they acquire experience from military reprocessing activities at Windscale in the UK and Marcoule in France, but they also had to meet an early, large-volume requirement for the reprocessing of natural uranium (metal) spent fuel from the first-generation Magnox reactors. Spent fuel from these reactors has to be reprocessed fairly quickly after discharge from the reactors. Plants at Windscale (with a capacity of 1,500 tonnes per year) and La Hague (with a capacity of 800 tonnes per year) have been operated since 1964 and 1966, respectively, to meet civil requirements in the two countries. In the 1970s, state-owned but commercially structured companies—British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) and Cogema in France—have also been established to operate and sell special nuclear fuel cycle services, including reprocessing.

Windscale—BNFL is currently engaged on a massive refurbishing and expansion programme, which could eventually cost more than £1bn at its Windscale factory. These ambitious plans, conceived in the mid-1970s when it became clear that there was going to be a world-wide shortage of commercial reprocessing capacity rather than the surplus predicted at the beginning of the decade, provide a good illustration of the difficulties facing the commercial reprocessor today. Part of the plan, concerned with the construction of a new 1,200 tonnes per year thermal oxide reprocessing plant (THORP) to deal with oxide spent fuel from British AGR power stations and from light water reactors in other countries, has been subjected to an exhaustive public inquiry. Although the final outcome has been satisfactory for BNFL, it has probably put back the starting date for the plant by at least two years, to 1987.

The more urgent part of the BNFL expansion plan is, however, the refurbishment of facilities for reprocessing Magnox fuel, and this work has not been impeded by the public inquiry. Magnox fuel can be held in storage ponds only for a few months before corrosion threatens the integrity of the cladding. Smooth and reliable operation of the reprocessing plant at Windscale is therefore a vital service for the Magnox power stations, which are providing some 13 per cent of the UK's electricity at the lowest cost.

The main chemical separation part of the plant, which uses the well-established Purex solvent extraction process, has operated since 1974 in a purpose-built building. There is every expectation that it will continue to function reliably for a good many more years. But a potential bottleneck is the decanning operation in which the Magnox cladding is stripped off the metal fuel before it is dissolved in nitric acid for feeding into the chemical separation plant.

Steelwork is now rising for a huge new building, 270m long by 80m wide and 35m high, on a site between the Calder Hall power station and the Windscale complex. It will house three large new storage ponds, each 45m by 20m and 7m deep; three reception cells for the unloading and cleaning of the heavy transport flasks; and three new decanning facilities.

Many features highlight the very greatly increased standards of safety now called for. The huge concrete pools, for example, are being built on hundreds of pedestals so that there is a space below the ponds where any seepage of the water would be detected.

Less visible, but certainly very important in the general upgrading of the existing Windscale reprocessing facilities and the future expansion, is detailed attention to the management of radioactive waste materials. A sizeable programme of work is in hand for the treatment and handling of waste materials at all levels, from the small volumes of highly-active fission products—isolation of which is one of the primary objectives of reprocessing—to larger volumes of slightly contaminated liquid which arise at various stages in the chemical processing complex. This low-level waste can, within carefully prescribed limits, be discharged to the sea.

An important point made by BNFL at the Windscale inquiry was the intention to keep the low-level discharges within—and probably well below—the present authorised limits, even though the total volume of fuel being reprocessed will be greatly increased with THORP. In practice this undertaking means that painstaking, and often quite expensive, measures must be applied to all process streams to ensure that as far as possible radioactive materials are removed and concentrated, or that liquids with low levels of contamination are recycled within the process plant.

For the high-level wastes

there is a programme of construction of the very high integrity stainless steel storage tanks in which wastes will be held as a liquid for an interim period of ten or more years, to allow further decay and concentration before solidification. The important thing with these tanks is to ensure that there is always an adequate margin of spare capacity to cope with the new arisings and to allow transfer from a leaking tank in the (unlikely) event of a leak occurring. The present position is that all the waste material from the military and civil reprocessing activities at Windscale is contained in 14 tanks. Two more are on standby, two are being installed and a further six are planned.

Detailed design work is now more or less complete on a pilot plant for the solidification of high-level wastes. Construction at Windscale should start next year with operation scheduled for 1981. As with reprocessing itself, the basic technology for vitrification is well established, both from work in the UK and through a very free exchange of information, from around the world. The main problem now is the design and testing of reliable and flexible systems for remote preparation of liquids of different chemical composition and radioactive content for feeding, with glass-making components, into a vitrification furnace. The Windscale pilot plant is designed to provide the maximum amount of experience in this field. It will be able to handle anything from fast reactor waste material which has had as little as six months' cooling to Magnox reactor wastes which have had 10-20 years' cooling.

Initial site clearance work for THORP should start early next year. The first construction work will be the building of five large storage ponds to provide a capacity for around 3,000 tonnes of oxide spent fuel, with one pond on standby. These ponds should be available for the receipt of spent fuel by 1984.

The BNFL team designing THORP includes a number of chemical engineers who have been involved in the building of four reprocessing plants—the early military plant and the Magnox plant at Windscale, and two plants for fast reactor fuel at Dounreay. Important considerations in an oxide plant—applicable also to the fast reactor reprocessing plants—include: 1, the need to filter out fine solid matter after the initial dissolving of the spent fuel in nitric acid; 2, the need in the early stages of solvent extraction to minimise the contact time between the highly active solution and the organic solvent, which can suffer some degradation due to radiation; and 3, the need to make provision for the higher concentration of plutonium in the process streams.

A French design of rotary filter will be used to achieve the first of these objectives. Pulsed columns, well-proven in smaller plants around the world, will be used instead of mixer settlers in the initial separation stages of the plant to minimise contact time. Solid neutron absorbers in the pulsed columns are among the measures that will be used to prevent criticality.

## Requirement

La Hague—Initially the nuclear programme in France paralleled very closely that in the UK. But the turn of events in recent years means that Cogema expects to be leading the world in the commercial reprocessing of oxide fuel during the early and mid-1980s. France has a smaller requirement for the reprocessing of Magnox fuel but a substantially larger requirement for the reprocessing of oxide fuel in the next decade or so. The French have been able to follow through at La Hague a scheme to introduce oxide fuel into the existing natural uranium plant by the addition of an oxide head-end. In addition the refurbished military plant at Marcoule can eventually take over virtually all of the requirement for natural uranium reprocessing so that the La Hague plant, with its oxide head-end, can make a phased transition to oxide reprocessing. This will be followed by the building of an entirely new plant at La Hague; more precisely, two identical plants providing a degree of back-up for each other. The total capacity of this UP3 plant will be 1,800 tonnes per year. Originally UP3 was scheduled to follow closely behind THORP. It will probably precede THORP by a year or two.

The present situation is that the oxide head-end plant, with a nominal capacity of 400 tonnes per year, has successfully completed two test runs with fuel from a boiling water reactor and from a pressurised water reactor, as required by the licensing authorities. Cogema now hopes to start commercial operations with the plant before the end of this year. Alternate campaigns of oxide fuel and Magnox fuel are anticipated

until a duplicate head-end plant is brought into operation around 1984.

By 1986 the first half of UP3 should be available and will be assigned to reprocessing for foreign customers. The second half will be brought in two or three years later to meet the increasing domestic requirements. Like BNFL, Cogema is pressing ahead with the construction of storage ponds so that they can receive the spent fuel which they are contracted to handle ahead of the completion of the reprocessing plant.

Gorleben—For a variety of reasons the Germans have fallen some way behind the British and French in the provision of commercial reprocessing services in support of their large nuclear power programme. On an interim basis they will in fact be obtaining reprocessing services from Cogema, and perhaps also from BNFL. But through the tripartite company, United Reprocessors (URG), they are in a position to benefit from the British and French experience while at the same time contributing valuable technical experience from the WAK pilot plant. In addition they have unique experience from trial disposal of radioactive waste in a disused salt mine at Asse.

Planning is in hand to build a large integrated reprocessing and waste disposal centre on a greenfield site at Gorleben in Lower Saxony. The complex will include 1, storage ponds for the receipt of the spent fuel—to be ready, it is hoped, by 1985; 2, a reprocessing plant with a capacity of 1,400 tonnes per year, which will handle all the German requirements into the 1990s; 3, plants for the processing of the recycled uranium and plutonium fuel; 4, plants for the treatment and solidification of wastes; and 5, a waste repository in the large stable salt formation below the site.

In the absence of interest in the country's electric utilities have formed a joint company, the German Company for Reprocessing of Nuclear Fuel (DWK), which will undertake the overall management of this giant project.

In terms of overall time and total cost the Gorleben project will be one of the longest and most expensive ever undertaken in Germany. It is likely to be 1983 or 1984 before the final stage is complete. At 1978 prices the preliminary estimates of cost was around DM 4bn (£1bn). This excludes the purchase of land and the cost of the sinking of the mine for the waste repository, which will be met by the Federal Government and could amount to a further DM 1.5bn. Considering likely inflation and interest charges during the extended timescale of this project the total amount of investment which will eventually have to be raised by the commercial interests involved could be between DM 10bn and DM 15bn (£2.5bn-£3.7bn).

However, even if this cost, which is probably the highest of the three major commercial reprocessing enterprises in Europe, is translated into as a direct charge on the cost of generating electricity from nuclear power it would only be of the order of 0.6 Pf (0.15p) per kWh. This charge, which ignores the possible credit from the recycle of uranium and plutonium, might be compared with recent German estimates of the charge attributable to sulphur removal plant in coal-fired power plants, which is put at 2.5 Pf (0.63p) per kWh.

Simon Rippon  
European Editor, Nuclear News

# Hayward Tyler Pump Company

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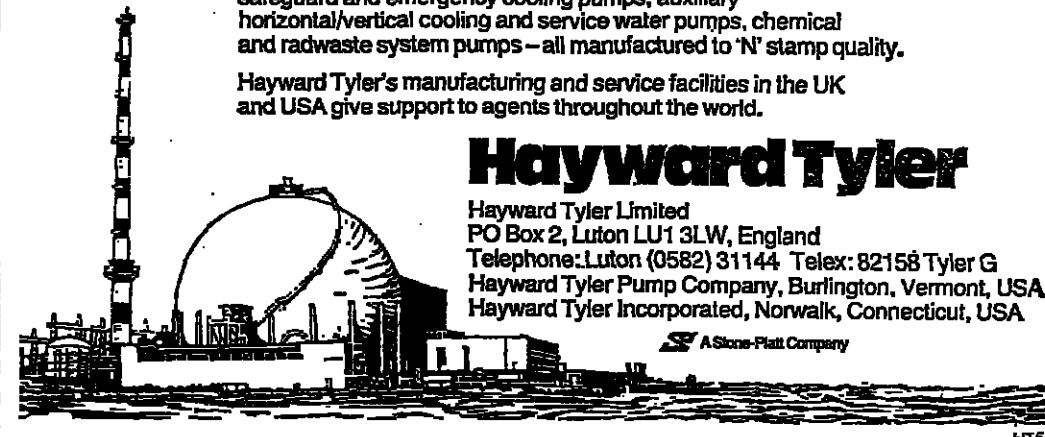
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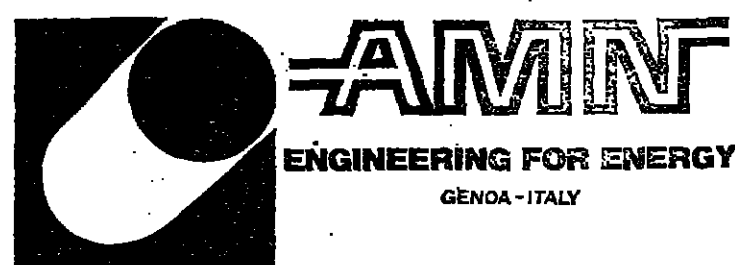


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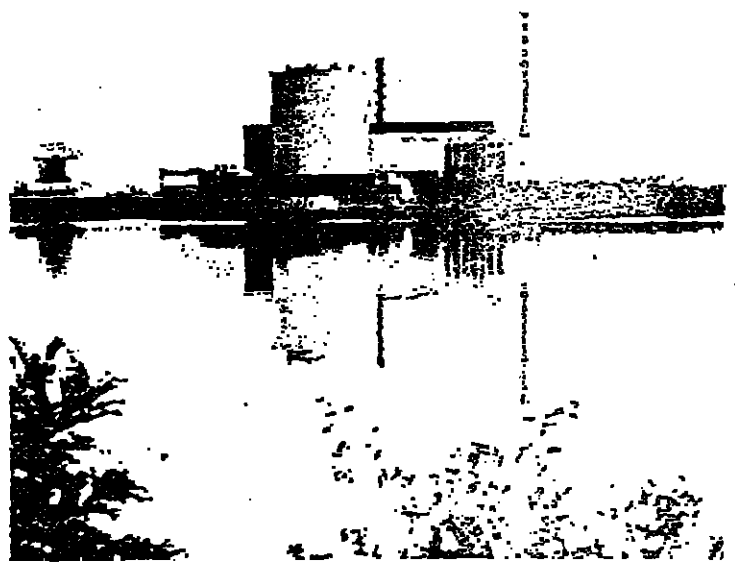


## WORLD NUCLEAR INDUSTRIES IV

## Europe's exporters take the lead



BWR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS □□□□ THERMOELECTRIC POWER PLANTS □□□□□ THERMAL POWER PLANTS FOR INDUSTRIAL PLANTS □□□ DIRECT CYCLE GAS TURBINE POWER PLANTS □□ COMBINED GAS/STEAM POWER PLANTS □□ STEAM PROPULSION MACHINERY FOR CONVENTIONAL MARINE PROPULSION □□□ NUCLEAR AND GAS TURBINE MARINE PROPULSION UNITS □□□



AMIN is the leading company in the plant engineering sector of the IRI-Finmeccanica Group and operates in the domestic and international markets for the design and supply of complete systems and/or subsystems for both conventional and nuclear power plants. AMIN is also now obtaining very satisfying results in the nuclear engineering field due to the considerable experience acquired through the construction of conventional power plants both in Italy and abroad totaling 27,000 MWe of installed capacity. AMIN has been working in this field since 1963, i.e. since its considerable contribution to the construction of the Garigliano BWR power plant. AMIN subsequently developed its organization and capabilities and was the prime contractor for the Cadoro nuclear plant, the largest power plant built in Italy to date. Following the completion of Cadoro, AMIN is now engaged in the construction of the two Montalto di Castro units, which utilize the latest BWR reactor design and which will generate up to 1,000 MWe each. AMIN is developing its nuclear activities both on its own account and jointly with other organisations and industries, both in Italy and abroad. Research efforts have enabled AMIN to develop a 600 MWe reactor design, which is particularly suitable for countries which, on account of their modest power requirements, are confined to medium and small size units. Other Finmeccanica companies under the leadership of Ansaldo spa support and supplement AMIN's capabilities.

ONLY TWO of the 29 nuclear reactor orders expected to be confirmed this year in seven countries outside the U.S. will go to U.S. nuclear manufacturers. These are two more plants for S. Korea, from Westinghouse Electric. The other 27 will go to European and Canadian companies, according to the Fifth Annual International Survey by the U.S. Atomic Industrial Forum (AIF) this summer.

AIF figures show that 14 of these 29 reactors will be exports. The countries where the orders are expected this year are: France 4 (Cruas 1 and 2 and Paluel 3, already ordered, and St. Maurice; all with Framatome); West Germany 3 (Neutpotz, from Babcock-Brown Boveri Reaktorbau and Vahnum A and B from Kraftwerk Union, although the companies hold little hope of signing contracts before the year is out); Iran 8 (four from France and four from W. Germany); Italy 4; Korea 2 (already ordered from Westinghouse); Romania 1 (from Atomic Energy of Canada); and Britain 4 (Heysham 3 and 4 and Torness 1 and 2, all from the Nuclear Power Company; the British position is examined more fully on p.11).

AIF figures do not include two additional 600 MWe Candu reactors from Canada to Romania, thought to be too speculative.

**Calculation**  
A quick calculation reveals that the U.S. share of the nuclear power plant export market outside the East bloc has fallen drastically, from 100 per cent in 1972 to 50 per cent last year, and now to only 14 per cent. Europe's order book is summarised in the accompanying table:

This table does not present a complete picture, however, because Europe also has a thriving business in components and services, from pressure vessels to safety evaluations, for nuclear stations outside Europe. Over 1,600 manufacturing com-

## EUROPE'S NUCLEAR ORDER BOOK

	For W. Europe	For export from Europe
Reactors	67 NSSS*	14 NSSS
Enrichment	10,000 tonnes	2,000 tonnes
Reprocessing	10,000+ tonnes†	4,400 tonnes

\* Includes orders obtained by Westinghouse Nuclear Europe, wholly owned subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric, based in Brussels. † Includes estimates for national programmes in UK and France.

panies and other organisations are affiliated to Foratom, the Association of European Atomic Forums, embracing 14 West European nations. Only France, West Germany, the UK and Sweden have exported complete nuclear steam supply systems.

France's sole supplier of NSSS is Framatome, a nuclear design and construction com-

pany, the main shares in which are held by Creusot-Loire (51 per cent), Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (30 per cent) and Westinghouse (15 per cent). Framatome has invested in enough production capacity to build eight 900 MWe NSSS (or six 1,300 MWe NSSS) per year. The current domestic programme fills about two-thirds of this capacity, and it also has export contracts in hand for Iran and South Africa.

As domestic orders decline in the 1980s, the plan is to keep the capacity filled with exports. All but one of the nuclear plants under construction in W. Germany are the responsibility of Kraftwerk Union. It claims manufacturing capacity for 38 NSSS—that is for six or seven a year. It has 11 plants under construction in W. Germany and orders for another 11 overseas (Iran six, Brazil two, Austria, Spain and Switzerland). Its plum contract is the one opened by the German-Brazilian agreement of 1976, which covers a full fuel cycle as well as reactors. In addition it was awarded a contract last month to conduct a feasibility study for Argentina's third nuclear reactor—a heavy water reactor. A Canadian-Italian group were originally seen as the favourites for this order.

Mr. Carl Walke, president of the AIF, believes that the loss to the U.S. economy of the declining U.S. share of the international nuclear market is traceable in good part to recent U.S. Government policies which have tended to dis-

courage foreign orders of U.S. reactors. He adds that the situation could be reversed by Iranian nuclear orders which, the recent U.S.-Iran agreement now makes possible. The U.S. expects to receive orders for at least six to eight of the 20 nuclear power plants Iran expects to construct during the 1980s.

Addressing the conference on World Energy Economics in London earlier this year, Mr. John Moore, president of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, laid the blame for the falling U.S. share on a "narrowing of price differentials between U.S. and foreign producers, their increased marketing efforts and expanded government assistance, including export financing."

A closer examination of the shift in nuclear plant suppliers reveals a change in the character of the competition, he said. Between 1955 and 1973, the U.S. won nearly 80 per cent of all non-Communist export orders, with the majority of those lost going to different technologies, usually to those of the Canadians and the British. However, in the last four years, the U.S. has won fewer and fewer export orders, with all the contracts lost going to overseas manufacturers of American technologies, the W. Germans and the French.

The major producers of nuclear plant outside the U.S. are W. Germany, France, Canada and Sweden. Of 19 export orders for NSSS announced by these countries from 1971 to 1977, W. Germany won ten orders, France six, Canada two and Sweden one.

The export thrust by the French and Germans stems from their declared decision to increase their exports of high-technology equipment both for political and economic reasons. Given the exigencies of the energy crisis it was logical for

them to concentrate on nuclear power. Their strong nuclear programmes have meant offers to the more developed countries not only of nuclear power plants, but also of reprocessing facilities and enrichment services—backed by favourable terms of financing.

Financial competition between supplier countries is quite significant, according to Mr. Moore. All recent contracts for the construction of nuclear plant in less developed countries had involved official export credit assistance from the supplier country. The financing competition has become even more important as, given the large capital requirements and long repayment periods, small differences in the level or type of financing can have a large impact on total costs.

Mr. John Elliott, senior principal of the UK Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), discussed this competition in terms of financing at a conference on nuclear exports and the City, held by the British Nuclear Forum in London last spring. He described how Americans were upset, "at losing the financing for the turbines for the latest Korean nuclear projects, when ECGD supported an extraordinary length of credit and an unusually low rate of interest" in order to compete the U.S. bid.

But Eximbank has participated in a high proportion of U.S. nuclear power plant exports—45 of the 57 nuclear projects since 1955. Up to March 30, 1978, Eximbank had supported some \$4.9bn of U.S. nuclear plant equipment exports by authorising nearly \$2.8bn in direct credits and \$1.4bn in guarantees. Eximbank then had applications before it worth more than \$2bn in U.S. exports of nuclear plant equipment.

The single largest Eximbank borrower for nuclear power is Spain, with a total exposure of some \$965m. Other countries in which it has financed nuclear plant are (in descending amounts of exposure): Taiwan (\$797m); Japan (\$600m but none since 1972); Philippines (\$643m); Korea (\$502); Yugoslavia (\$235m); Mexico (\$198m); Brazil (\$164m); Italy (\$98m but none since 1971); West Germany (\$53m but none since 1959); Sweden (\$47m but none since 1972); and France (\$16m but none since 1959).

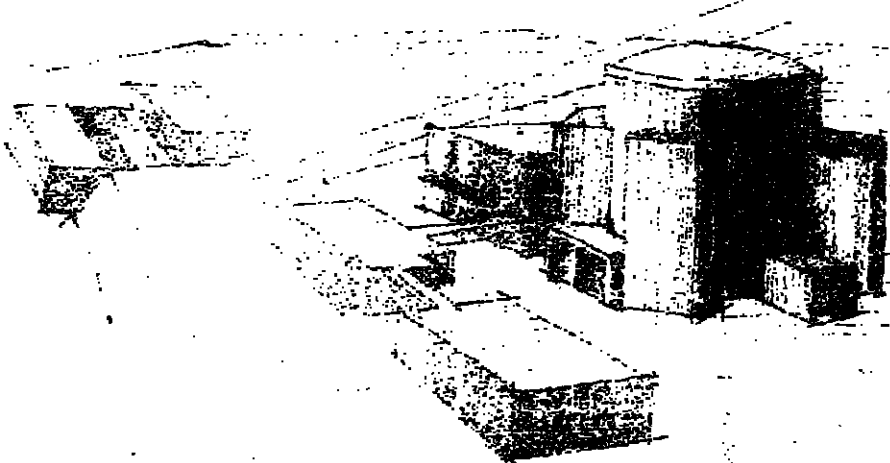
Pearl Marshall  
Editor, European Energy Report

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## Sodium Fast Reactors line

1200 MWe Super Phénix fast breeder reactor (Creys-Malville Nuclear Power Station).

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NIRA is the Prime Contractor of the Italian manufacturing Companies for the relative supplies.

118 MWth PEC fast reactor for fuel element testing at Brasimone, Italy, on behalf of CNEN and sodium experimental facilities for the related test program.

Super Phénix-2 Reactor: participation in the studies of design and commercialization of this reactor type line.

## Heavy Water Reactors line

Nuclear power plants equipped with CANDU reactors under AECL licence (Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.).

600 MWe nuclear systems equipped with CANDU-PHW type reactors (the technical part of the relative tender has already been submitted to ENEL).

40 MWe CIRENE Nuclear Power Station at Latina, Italy, on behalf of CNEN and ENEL.



CANDU-PHW Twin Unit Station (2 x 600 MWe)  
NIRA STANDARDIZATION

## WORLD NUCLEAR PLANT MARKET U.S. SHARE AND EXIMBANK ROLE

	1955-70	1971-73	1974-75	1976-77
Global nuclear export orders	32	25	19	8
U.S. supplied	24	20	9	4
Exim financed	15	18	8	4
Ratios: (%)				
U.S./World	75%	80%	47%	50%
Exim/U.S.	63%	90%	89%	100%
Foreign orders: (Country of supplier on left)				
Can-India (2)		Ger-Austria	Ger-Iran (2)	Fr.S.A.I. (2)
Paris		Switz	Brazil (2)	Ger-Spain (3)
Ger-Argentina		Can-India	Spain	
Neth		Korea	Luxem	
UK-Japan		Swe-Finland	Fr-Iran (2)	
Italy		Belg (2)	Switz	
Fr-Spain				
Switz-2		Switz-2		
India-2				
Italy				
Sweden				

Source: Eximbank

## U.S. CONTINUED FROM PAGE II

it away. Little as I like nuclear — and I'd rather live in a solar world — it's the best option we have."

## Needs

The view of the nuclear industry is that, eventually, it will triumph. It believes that the world needs American pressurised and boiling water reactors; that it needs the fast breeder reactor; and that it needs reprocessing. It believes that future U.S. Administrations will be driven to concurrence.

There is even some sign that mounting problems with coal will cause the log-jam in any industry, it is gradually nuclear construction to begin to free in the next two years. Commonwealth Edison, the Chicago-based utility, is evaluating bids on two nuclear plants. Public Service of Indiana will make a decision next year on bids which it already has in hand. The Tennessee Valley Authority is receiving bids on a nuclear power plant and will decide next year. American Electric Power, the largest privately-owned utility system in America, is evaluating its system with a mind to turning it into nuclear power.

It is in the short term that the nuclear industry faces stagnation. The question is whether there will remain enough business in the way of backing to enable the four nuclear manufacturers — Westinghouse, General Electric, Combustion Engineering and U.S. Babcock and Wilcox—to stay in the nuclear business and to retain their nuclear personnel. The politics of the United States are as diverse as its geography disparate, and although nuclear power has taken a political drubbing on a scale never endured before by any industry, it is gradually winning a few friends. Key members of the Congress are beginning to show understanding and even support for nuclear power. As the dollar weakens, solar power appears to be more elusive and recedes further away, and coal causes increasing environmental concern, some re-evaluation of nuclear energy by politicians as well as utilities seems to be inevitable.

However, nuclear power has endured such a long period of travail that there are now serious institutional barriers to its use in a number of states, such as California, where state law may effectively preclude construction of nuclear power plants until the waste issue is resolved to the liking of the legislature. Similarly, many politically motivated public service commissions are looking at nuclear power with disfavor at energy, and the politics of nuclear power have become the politics of America in an extraordinary polarisation of technology. In general, the left wing of the Democratic Party and most political activists are taking a strong social conscience take as part of their political creed a stand against nuclear energy. The more ordinary elements of the Democratic Party and most Republicans are in favour of nuclear power.

At heart, the U.S. nuclear industry knows that its future will be determined not by its safety record, nor by its ability to extract kilowatts per foot but by what happens at the polls in 1980. A swing to the right will be a swing in favour of nuclear energy. A swing the other way is expected to mean more anguish.

Llewellyn King  
The Energy Daily, Washington



## A turning point in strategies and structures







## OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

[illegible][illegible]







## INSURANCE—Continued

**PROPERTY** Continued**INV TRUSTS—Continued**

## FINANCE LAND—Continued

### MINES—Continued

### MINES—Continued

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**TINS**

**TINS**

**COPPER**

**COPPER**

possible, are reported on an yearly basis on the basis of net distribution; bracket per cent. or more difference if calculated.

possible, are reported on an yearly basis on the basis of net distribution; bracket per cent. or more difference if calculated.

since reduced, passed or deferred.  
to non-residents on application.  
or report awaited.

since reduced, passed or deferred.  
to non-residents on application.  
or report awaited.

do not allow for shares which may be issued at a future date. No P/E ratio usual during a final dividend declaration.

do not allow for shares which may be issued at a future date. No P/E ratio usual during a final dividend declaration.

Forecast dividend: cover based on price.  
Tax free up to 30p in the E. w Yield  
cause. y Dividend and yield based on market value.

Forecast dividend: cover based on price.  
Tax free up to 30p in the E. w Yield  
cause. y Dividend and yield based on market value.

Gross. † Figures assumed. ‡ Dividend based on assumption Treasury Bill until maturity of stock.

Gross. † Figures assumed. ‡ Dividend based on assumption Treasury Bill until maturity of stock.

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IRISH

50p	327	.....	
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se £1	520	.....	

IRISH

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rick 54 +6 Unidare

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9	Invresk	8	Vickers

18	1. C. L.	20	Utd. Dr.
9	Invresk	8	Vickers

8	Wicks & Spicer	10	Town &
16	Midland Bank	25	
7	N.E.I.	12	Oil

8	Wicks & Spicer	10	Town &
16	Midland Bank	25	
7	N.E.I.	12	Oil

tion of Options traded is given in the London Stock Exchange Report page 10.

tion of Options traded is given in the London Stock Exchange Report page 10.

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[illegible]



Tuesday October 3 1978

**BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING OVERHEAD GARAGE DOORS**

**Garador**

Westland Engineers Ltd.  
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## World steel outlook gloomy

BY ROY HODSON

The outlook for the Western world's steel industry remains gloomy after four years of recession. Mr. L. J. Holschuh, secretary-general-designate of the International Iron and Steel Institute, forecast a growth in demand of only 1.9 per cent next year when he spoke at the opening of the institute's annual conference.

The small growth in demand for steel would come, mainly, from outside the big steel-making and consuming areas of Europe, North America and Japan. In those three areas the institute's forecasters expect levels of steel demand to remain virtually unchanged.

The general sustained upturn for steel demand for which the world steel industry had waited for four years was still not within sight, he said. In the U.S., which had ex-

perienced strengthened steel demand, the industry working at 85 per cent of its capacity, it was possible that 1979 would bring a halt to the upward trend.

There are as yet no reliable indications that the principal cause of slow economic growth or stagnation in the industrialised countries will be removed.

"As long as such disturbances as exchange rate disorder and imbalance in international trade persist, the economic outlook is uncertain."

The 29 Western nations belonging to the institute are expected to make 458m tonnes of steel this year. This will be 4 per cent above the slump year of 1977, but still 36m tonnes below the peak of 1974. The institute has prepared estimates of steel production

and usage in the Communist bloc's economic grouping, Comecon and China, and concludes that total world steel consumption will be 715m tonnes in 1978 and 735m tonnes in 1979.

Mr. Elshiro Saito, president of Nippon Steel and chairman of the institute, said he believed order was gradually returning to the industry. "It seems to me that the world industry has begun, albeit slowly, to make progress to the establishment of a new international order over the past year."

He claimed that the two main systems for disciplining markets, the European pricing system and the U.S. trigger price mechanism, had gone a long way toward improving the world steel market.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Oct. 2.

They were measures which were helping steelmakers everywhere to achieve better financial results, and had the beneficial effect of eliminating sale below production costs, a practice widespread among steelmakers previously.

The steady enlargement of the State-owned sector in the world steel industry meant that 45 per cent of total production was in the public sector, said Mr. Charles Baker, retiring secretary-general of the institute.

Within its membership, 22 per cent of producers were State-owned.

He spoke against "deterioration of the business environment through governmental encroachment."

Washington presses EEC to check steel invasion. Page 6

## BP-Veba to appeal on £210m deal veto

BY ADRIAN DICKS

BRITISH PETROLEUM and Veba, West Germany's biggest energy company, announced today that they will appeal to Count Otto Lambsdorff, the West German Economics Minister, to overturn last night's decision by the Federal Cartel Office blocking BP's DM 500m (£210m) deal for most of Veba's Gelsenberg subsidiary.

At the same time, Veba said it would "as a precautionary measure" begin civil court proceedings to contest the Cartel Office ruling.

Deutsche BP said it was still considering whether to take similar action.

Veba said the ruling had come as no surprise in the light of discussions with the Cartel Office since the proposed deal. Deutsche BP was announced in mid-June. It noted that the Cartel Office had given its blessing for all the components of the complex deal except for the indirect 25 per cent share that BP would acquire in Ruhrgas, West Germany's biggest importer and distributor of natural gas.

### Dominant

The Cartel Office objects to the further strengthening of Ruhrgas's already dominant position, the removal of Deutsche BP as a potential entrant into the natural gas market, and the concentration in Ruhrgas of the interests of most of the major international oil groups represented in Germany.

In the course of discussions with the Cartel Office it was confirmed today Veba and Deutsche BP had put forward a proposal by Cologne University Institute for Energy Economics that BP should accept reduced voting rights in Ruhrgas.

The voting rights of Gelsenberg's 25 per cent stake in Ruhrgas, which Deutsche BP is due to acquire on January 1, 1979, are exercised in conjunction with those of a holding company named Bergemann, among whose other shareholders is Texaco. The Bergemann-Gelsenberg block totals 56 per cent of Ruhrgas, within which Gelsenberg has a 45 per cent stake.

The arrangement effectively gives the owner of these shares the largest single voice in Ruhrgas.

In order to meet the objection that Deutsche BP and Texaco, between them, would have through the mechanism of Bergemann, an effective majority in Ruhrgas, the Cologne Institute suggested they should either sell stock or make over voting rights to some of the non-oil company shareholders in Bergemann. These include Ruhmkorff, Hoechst, Mannesmann and Fried. Krupp Huettenwerke.

The Cartel Office is understood to have rejected this compromise. But it may well be put forward again to Count Lambsdorff when, in accordance with the Cartel Office's ruling, his ministry holds a public hearing into the case.

Details, Page 2

THE LEX COLUMN

## Resisting the pull of U.S. rates

Of one thing we can be sure: U.S. interest rates are still going up. Yesterday the Federal Funds rate at times approached 9 per cent, a rise of more than a point in the past two months, although the current target rate is thought to be no more than 8½ per cent. And for the first time there is just a hint that the climb in transatlantic rates is starting to have an influence on the financial climate in the UK. With confidence in sterling being eroded by the political wrangle over pay policy the forward discount has been opening up in the past few days, and there has been a corresponding climb by Eurosterling money rates—the three-month rate is now close to 13½ per cent.

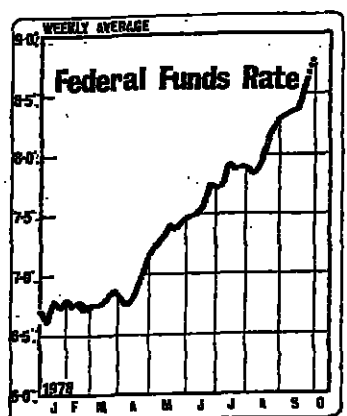
So far, the movement of UK domestic rates has been modest and can be attributed to short-term fluctuations of confidence rather than any shift in the fundamentals. But there is an increasing edginess after an unaccustomed period of stability: if Minimum Lending Rate is unchanged at 10 per cent next Thursday it will have achieved its longest period at one level since early 1972. So far the money supply has given no reason for anxiety on interest rates, but in the absence of significant gilt-edged sales the aggregates are likely to swell back into the target growth rate within the next few months. Phillips and Drew, in their latest economic forecast published today, are projecting a rise in MLR to 11 per cent by the year-end (though they suggest it will ease again during 1979).

Purely domestic developments which tighten credit—like the payment of special deposits last month, or the big VAT transfer due in the next week or so—can be largely offset by the Bank of England in its money market operations. It is the sterling-dollar exchange rate, once again, which is likely to be the crucial factor.

### Currys

Curry's interim figures reflect a period of solid, if unspectacular, progress. Cash takings and trading profit are both 21 per cent ahead; but a £272,000 increase in the charge for pensions (which now amounts to £417,000) has limited the pre-tax increase to 18 per cent. All give profits of £3.8m. Currys is emphasising that it is not ex-

Index fell 1.4 to 499.2



special attraction in this case is the builders' merchant at Bambergers, which provides a welcome measure of stability to profits last year. It succeeds, it would also mean international timber sales little more secure, and Montague Meyer's holding its equity would be diluted by 10 to 8 per cent.

### Jefferson Smurfit

Jefferson Smurfit has been progressing by leaps and bounds over recent years. In 1973 group sales were only £23.8m, and group profits a mere £1.5m. By the end of last year however, sales had multiplied over seven times to £175.7m and the pre-tax figure was more than 10 times up at £16m. Last year earnings per share amounted to 19.3p, 43 per cent more than 1977 and over eight times that of 1973.

Yesterday's interim statement from Smurfit suggests that its growth is now easing back to a more normal but still decent pace. Sales are 12½ per cent higher, and pre-tax profits up 22 per cent at £8.3m. The best performance has come from Ireland on the print and packaging side, though the UK (including the old Alliance Alders) is also ahead. The bad news is that U.S. profits are halved while the contribution from Nigeria is cut by one-third. The outlook for the year is for pre-tax profits of about £18m, to give earnings per share (on a 27 per cent tax charge) of about 25p. So at 97p the shares trade on a prospective price of about 8, and still have attractions.

### NCB Pension Fund

Just how hard it is for a pension fund to keep up with inflation is demonstrated by the National Coal Board, which has sent out the accounts of its staff superannuation scheme. According to the actuary, the scheme could only cope with a 5 per cent pensions rise for 1977-78, although the Board opted to raise payments by 13 per cent, the same as inflation. The cost was a deficiency contribution of £59.4m, compared with normal contributions of £42.2m. The previous year the deficiency contribution was £54.2m. All give profits of £3.8m. Currys is emphasising that it is not ex-

## Lucas talks continue in bid for Ducellier

Financial Times Reporter

A HINT has emerged that Lucas, the UK car components company, still hopes for an amicable end to its bid to take control of Ducellier, the French electrical components group.

In a prepared statement, Lucas said discussions were continuing with Ferodo, the French concern which has taken effective control of Ducellier. It added that Ferodo has "declared its wish to collaborate with Lucas", and that talks were also taking place with the French Government, which has had a strong hand in determining Ducellier's future.

### Pressing ahead

At the same time, however, Lucas stressed that it is pressing ahead with legal action to prevent Ferodo stepping into the dominant position in Ducellier. The company's statement indicates that Lucas is seeking a solution to Ducellier's future which has involved Ferodo taking the majority share in the company, against Lucas's 49 per cent stake, came as a surprise to the British group last week.

It hints strongly that a scheme of arrangement had been worked out which would have involved a Ferodo interest in Ducellier but Lucas control. The two companies were brought together last week by the French Government. "In the belief that they had come very close to an agreement concerning the control and management of Ducellier," the statement said.

Presumably, Lucas is hoping for a solution somewhat along these lines, although it would make no further comment, yesterday, beyond saying that it was "expecting something to happen pretty soon."

### Held up

Lucas's £26m (£13.3m) bid for the 51 per cent of Ducellier owned by Bendix Corporation of the U.S. has been held up since December, 1977, by the French authorities.

The scheme, put together by Ferodo, involves setting up a new organisation called Societe en Participation with DBA, the Bendix holding company in France, through which Ferodo would indirectly control 51 per cent of Ducellier.

Lucas, however, claims to have pre-emptive rights to acquire this 51 per cent holding, and is proceeding with legal action on this basis.

"Lucas has been advised that the Ferodo action contravenes not only the statutes of the partnership company Ducellier but also the company law of France," it says.

## ITT prepares bid for Egyptian phone project

BY JOHN LLOYD

SOME of the world's major telecommunications companies are preparing bids for work on modernising and extending Egypt's telephone network.

One of the most advanced of these is being prepared by ITT, the U.S. multinational communications company. It involves substantial participation by the company's UK subsidiary, STC, a leader in telephone cable manufacture.

The whole project, planned in two parts—the first, spread over five years, worth around £150m (£200m) and the second, over 25 years, worth around £100m (£150m)—is the most ambitious ever proposed.

The Egyptians want their telecommunications network upgraded and extended from its present 400,000 lines to about 1m lines by 1984, and about 5m lines by the end of the century.

The project also entails building a plant making fully electronic, computer-controlled exchanges for the Egyptian and other Middle Eastern markets.

At least three European companies—CIT-Alcatel of France, Siemens of West Germany and

Philips of Holland—are also preparing plans, but it is believed these do not yet include any for modernising and extending a manufacturing facility.

Philips, which won a £15m Saudi Arabian contract in association with the Swedish company L. M. Ericsson last year, would not comment on whether it would bid jointly with Ericsson.

Ericsson said yesterday that the size of the bid made the consortium approach likely but it would wait until the situation clarified before drawing up proposals.

ITT's plans are similar to those already submitted by a U.S. consortium, once thought to be the only serious contender for the contract.

### Uncertainty

That consortium is composed of Western Electric (the manufacturing arm of AT&T), General Telephone and Electronics and Continental Telephone.

There has been considerable uncertainty over the intentions of the Egyptian Government and administration. The chairman

of the companies in the U.S. consortium and President Anwar Sadat met in June, and it was thought that this meeting had set the seal on the consortium's success.

Aret's managing director has since told communications companies' executives in Cairo that President Sadat had asked him to put the bid out to competitive tender once the specifications are agreed.

ITT, with the other companies, now preparing a bid, clearly believes the situation is open. It also thinks the U.S. consortium's proposals are over-competitive.

ITT's package includes proposals for exchanges—which would initially be the company's electronic Metaco exchange, manufactured in Belgium, then its digital exchange-cabling, servicing equipment and training programmes. It will also be refurbishing a plant for a manufacturing facility which it had not formally submitted.

"Nothing has been sewn up yet," said an ITT executive. "I think it will go the usual old route—a specification will be drawn up, and it will go out to tender for the best bid."

## Merger planned by Bambergers and International Timber

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

TWO British timber groups, International Timber Corporation and Bambergers, are seeking to merge in an agreed deal worth £7.6m.

International Timber is bidding three of its shares at 170p cash for every seven Bambergers shares. The groups have a combined turnover approaching £200m.

The price caused some surprise in the City as speculators had been expecting somewhat higher terms and Bambergers share price yesterday fell 11p to 77p having reached 92p ahead of the big announcement.

Mr. R. E. Groves, chairman of International Timber, estimated that a merger would make the combined business the second largest UK timber concern—in terms of sales—behind Montague Meyer.

Last year International Timber generated sales of £134.5m and Bambergers produced sales of £38.8m. Combined sales of the current year may approach £200m compared with the £247m generated by Montague Meyer last year.

Montague controls a 10 per cent stake in International Timber.

The groups said a merger would provide them with a larger

distribution network. Mr. Groves said: "For example Bambergers building products division is largely based in the South and South West while our interests in this field are largely in East Anglia, the Midlands and the North West."

The two businesses were largely complementary but there were some areas of difference. "We have supplied a good deal

of timber for the furniture industry while Bambergers has concentrated more on supply to the building industry."

Directors of Bambergers are supporting the bid and say they will accept International Timber's terms in respect of their 10.8 per cent holdings. International Timber is also offering 65p cash for each Bambergers £1 Cumulative Preference share.

Continued from Page 1

## Cabinet expected to defy pay vote

the economic strategy of the next election—keeping inflation under control; and strengthening rather than weakening the authority of the Prime Minister.

After stressing the advantages gained already from the Government's economic policies, the really gauging the mood of confidence, warned starkly that the debate could settle the outcome of the next general election.

In his view there were two essential keys to winning the

of 1931 when the Labour Government had run away from power. "Let us make sure we do not make the same mistake, when our forebears split to atoms at the critical moment and let the Tories in," he said.

After the debate Mrs. Shirley Williams, the Education Secretary, said she did not believe the conference had understood what it was doing, and that it was wrong to let the Government win the next election.

"I am damned if I want Blackpool 1978 to be the greatest victory Mrs. Thatcher has ever had," she declared.

Another leading moderate, Dr. David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said at the same Campaign for Labour Victory fringe meeting that the onus was now on the opponents of incomes policy to come up with something viable that would hold inflation.

Continued from Page 1

## Phillips oil strike

Aquitaine on block 35/2 and Deminor on block 35/6. Of the first 11 wells completed, none have shown significant indications of oil or gas.

The Phillips announcement does not yet herald the discovery of a major new oil province off Ireland. But the find could prove to be of great importance in the long-term by encouraging international oil companies to continue searching.

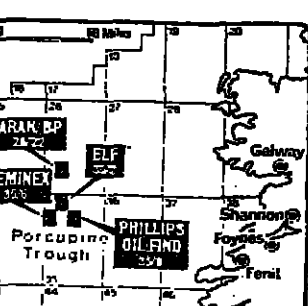
The Phillips find is of good quality crude, similar to that found in the North Sea, being light and sulphur-free.

But it was made in 1411 feet of water, far deeper than any of the North Sea discoveries, which are nearly all in depths of less than 600 feet.

The well is being plugged and the rig Sedco 708 will be released.

The company said yesterday: "While the recovery of this quantity of oil cannot be considered commercial, especially in the 1411-foot water depth in which the well was drilled, the Phillips Group is encouraged by the test results."

The group consists of Phillips 37.5 per cent, Getty Oil 35 per cent, Amerada Hess 20 per cent, and Century Power and Light 5 per cent.



34 degrees API—and flowed along with small amounts of gas from one zone. Other zones were tested but without success.

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## Weather

**UK TODAY**  
DRY with sunny intervals, some rain in north.  
London, E. Anglia, S.E. England  
Mostly dry, sunny intervals.  
Max. 16C (61F).

Cent. S. England, E. and W. Midlands, E. England, Channel Is., S.W. England and S. Wales  
Mainly dry, sunny intervals.  
Max. 16C (61F).

BUSINESS CENTRES			
	Y'day	midday	Y'day
Amsterdam	C 46	Madrid	C 12
Antwerp	C 54	Stockholm	C 51
Bahia	C 81	Stockholm	C 51
Barcelona	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Berlin	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Bombay	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Buenos Aires	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Calcutta	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Cardiff	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Chicago	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Copenhagen	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Dublin	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Edinburgh	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Frankfurt	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Glasgow	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Helsinki	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
London	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Lyons	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Madrid	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Moscow	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Osaka	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Paris	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Rome	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
Stockholm	C 59	Stockholm	C 51
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